KIRKMAN CERENO HESTER BELLEGARDE GETTY NAUCK

INVINCIBLE UNIVERSE™



COMPENDIUM ONE



image comics presents

INVINCIBLE UNIVERSE™

COMPENDIUM ONE

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DIGITALEDITION.

ATOM EVE #1



HURRY NOW, BUT GO EASY WITH HER--

--SHE'S GONE INTO LABOR!

PROGRAM

PLEASE, I'M TELLING YOU, YOU HAVE TO BE VERY CAREFUL WITH HER! SHE'S IN A VERY VOLATILE CONDITION RIGHT NOW! ANY KIND OF JOSTLING COULD BE QUITE DAMAGING!

SIR, IF YOU COULD PLEASE JUST--

NO, ACTUALLY, I'LL BE RIDING BACK HERE *WITH* HER, THANK YOU.

NOW PLEASE HURRY. WE MUST GET TO THE HOSPITAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. BUT DRIVE CAREFULLY!

RING! RING!

BRANDYWORTH HERE. YES, HELLO, MR. ERICKSON.

THAT'S RIGHT, SHE HAS GONE INTO LABOR. I'M RIGHT HERE WITH HER IN THE AMBULANCE. WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO THE HOSPITAL RIGHT NOW.

WELL, MR. ERICKSON, WE'RE PULLING INTO THE HOSPITAL AS WE SPEAK. YOU MAY SEND YOUR *MPS* TO COME GET ME HERE.

GOOD DAY, MR. ERICKSON.

EMERGENCY

YES, THE HOSPITAL. NO, WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO MAKE OUR WAY TO THE MILITARY FACILITIES. THERE ISN'T TIME.

SHE'S TOO FAR INTO THE LABOR. WE'D NEVER MAKE IT TO THE BASE BEFORE SHE GAVE BIRTH, AND THE CHILD WILL NEED *IMMEDIATE* MEDICAL ATTENTION.

NO, MR. ERICKSON, I DON'T THINK *YOU* UNDERSTAND.

NONE OF OUR FETAL EXPERIMENTS HAVE EVER GOTTEN THIS FAR WITH ANY MEASURE OF SUCCESS! LISTEN TO ME AND DO WHAT I SAY AND YOU'LL HAVE YOUR WEAPON!

TO TAKE THIS WOMAN TO YOUR FACILITIES NOW WOULD JEOPARDIZE HER LIFE, THE LIFE OF THE CHILD, AND THE SUCCESS OF THE PROJECT!

YOU MUST MAKE ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT YOU DON'T APPLY ANY MORE MEDICATIONS THAN ARE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. NONE AT ALL, IF POSSIBLE. SHE'S TOO UNSTABLE.

PLEASE, YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME. PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO HER VITAL SIGNS, AND BE PREPARED FOR ANYTHING WHEN--

SIR, CALM DOWN. WE'VE DONE HUNDREDS OF THESE DELIVERIES, MISTER...

DOCTOR BRANDYWORTH, THANK YOU. AND YOU CANNOT IMAGINE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TASK AT HAND. THE CHILD ABOUT TO BE BORN HERE IS UNIQUE IN EVERY CONCEIVABLE SENSE! YOU MUST BE READY FOR ANY MANNER OF UNEXPECTED PHENOM--

YAAA

GO GO GO! FIND BRANDYWORTH! AND FIND THAT BABY!

MATERNITY-- WHERE IS IT?

U--UP... THIRD...

THIRD FLOOR, BOYS! GO GO GO!

THERE HE IS! BRANDYWORTH!

MP

CORPORAL, GRAB HIM! DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!

YOU HEARD THE MAN, BRANDYWORTH. ARE YOU GONNA COME PEACEFULLY?

I DON'T PLAN ON RESISTING, ERICKSON. YOU SEE, YOU'RE TOO LATE. WE ALL WERE.

WE LOST THE CHILD.

YOU MAY SEE THE BODY IF YOU LIKE.

HONEY, THIS ISN'T YOUR FAULT. YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF. THE DOCTORS DID EVERYTHING THEY COULD. IT WASN'T YOU, IT WAS ME, AT MY AGE--

I--I'M SORRY, HONEY--I'M SO SORRY.

OH, ADAM!

MR. AND MRS. WILKINS?

Y-YES?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE YOUR BABY?

NURSE, IF THIS IS A JOKE, WE DON'T THINK IT'S VERY FUNNY.

ARE YOU *TRYING* TO HURT US? WE--WE LOST...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN... I HAVE YOUR BABY RIGHT HERE. THE DOCTORS HAD TO TAKE HER TO THE BACK AND DO SOME RATHER INTENSIVE WORK, BUT EVERYTHING WAS SUCCESSFUL, AND NOW SHE'S CLEANED UP AND READY TO MEET YOU.

NURSE, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW HAPPY THIS MAKES US! WE THOUGHT WE HAD ***LOST*** HER!

BUT NOW SHE'S HERE, AND LOOK HOW PERFECT! OUR LITTLE BABY . . .

OUR SAMANTHA EVE WILKINS.

SCIENCE DOG

CINEMAS 7

NEXT TIME, ADAM-- I'LL PICK THE MOVIE. BUT AT LEAST SAMANTHA SLEPT THE WHOLE WAY THROUGH IT.

HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW HOW IT WAS? ALL I REMEMBER IS THE OLD COMICS AND CHEESY TV SHOW. I WASN'T EXPECTING ALL THAT SWEARING OR EXPLOSIONS OR RUBBER NIPPLES.

SIX... RUBBER... DOG... NIPPLES...

ALL I KNOW IS, NEXT TIME WE'LL SEE A MOVIE WITHOUT EXPLOSIONS.

AH, COME ON. IT WASN'T THAT BAD. AT LEAST SAMANTHA GOT A GOOD NAP IN. I MEAN, LOOK AT HER.

SHE'S SLEEPING LIKE A BABY.

BAH?

BAH?!

NUMMY NUM APPLE SAUCE. DO YOU LIKE THE APPLE SAUCE?

AHH.. AHH...

Kix

ARE YOU GOING TO SAY APPLE, SAMANTHA? ARE YOU? CAN YOU SAY IT?

AP... AP....

ADAM! GET IN HERE! I THINK SAMANTHA'S ABOUT TO SAY HER FIRST WORD!

SAY APPLE, SAM! LOOK AT IT! APPLE!

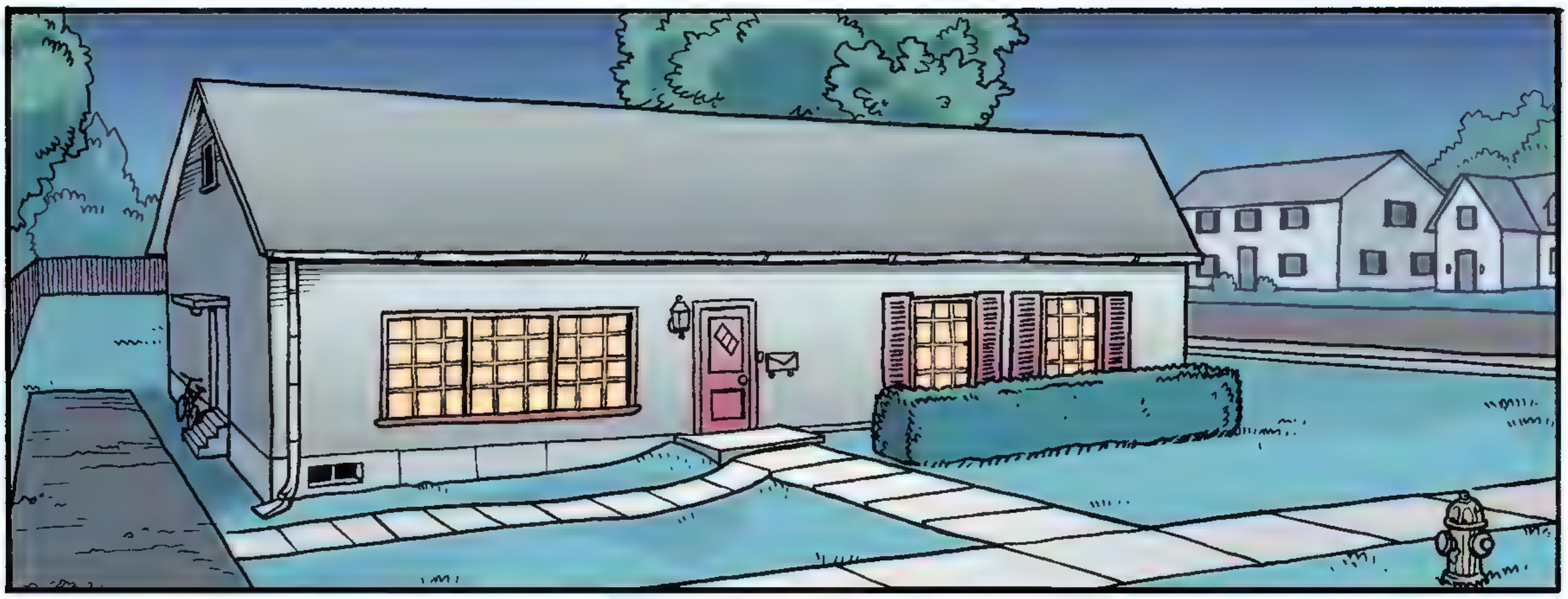
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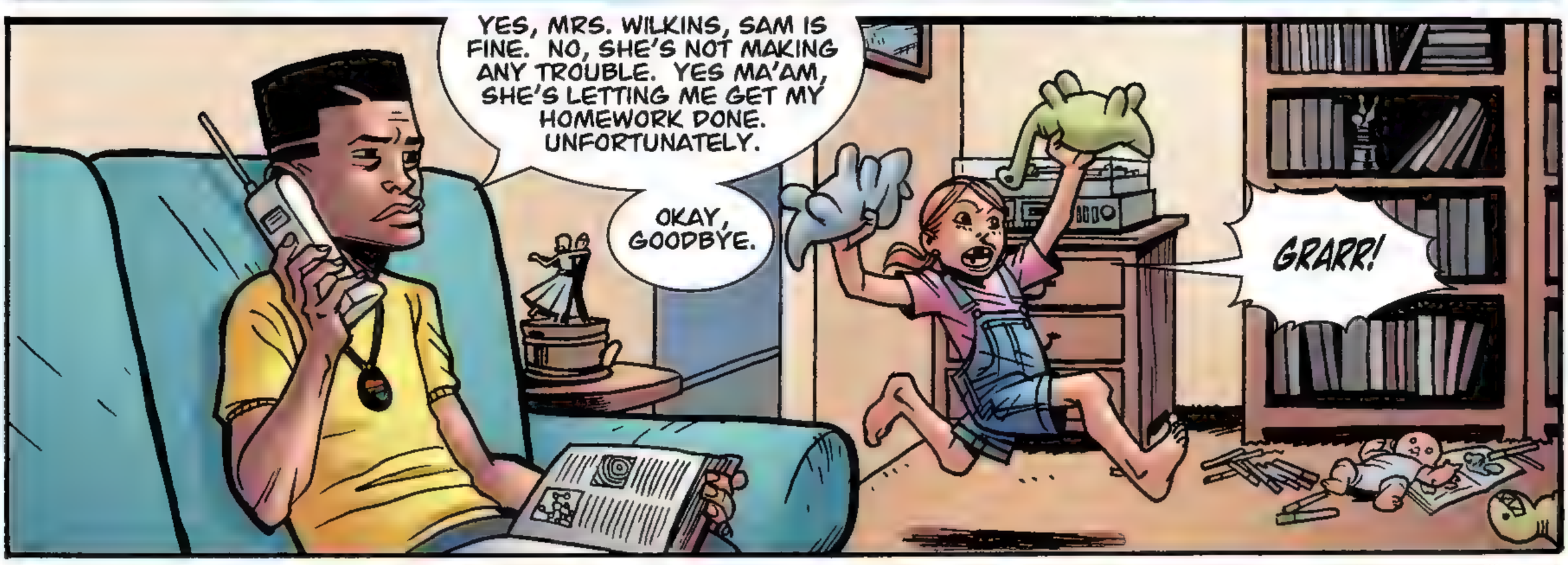
NO, BABY. "APP," LIKE BEFORE! "APPLE!" SAY "APPLE."

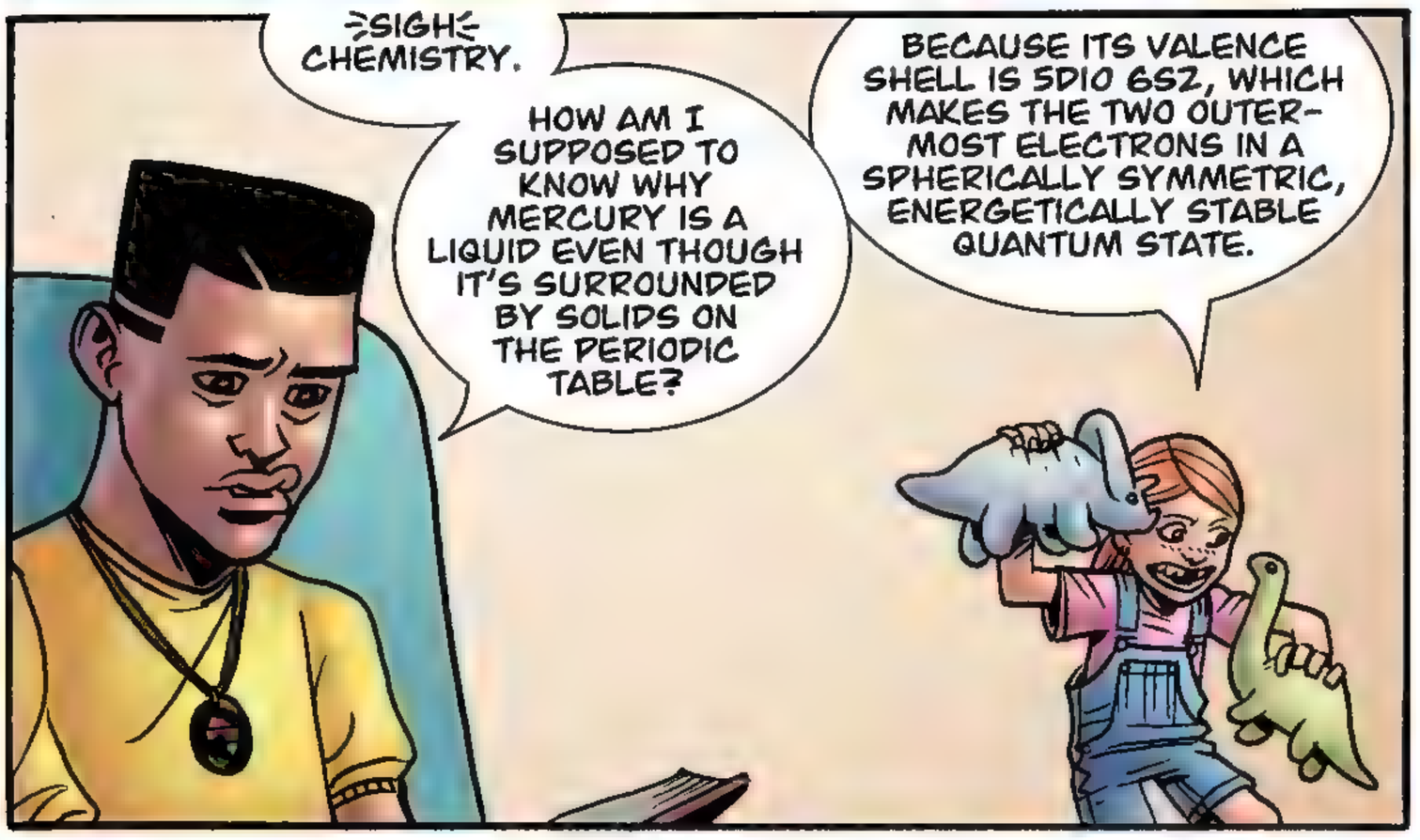
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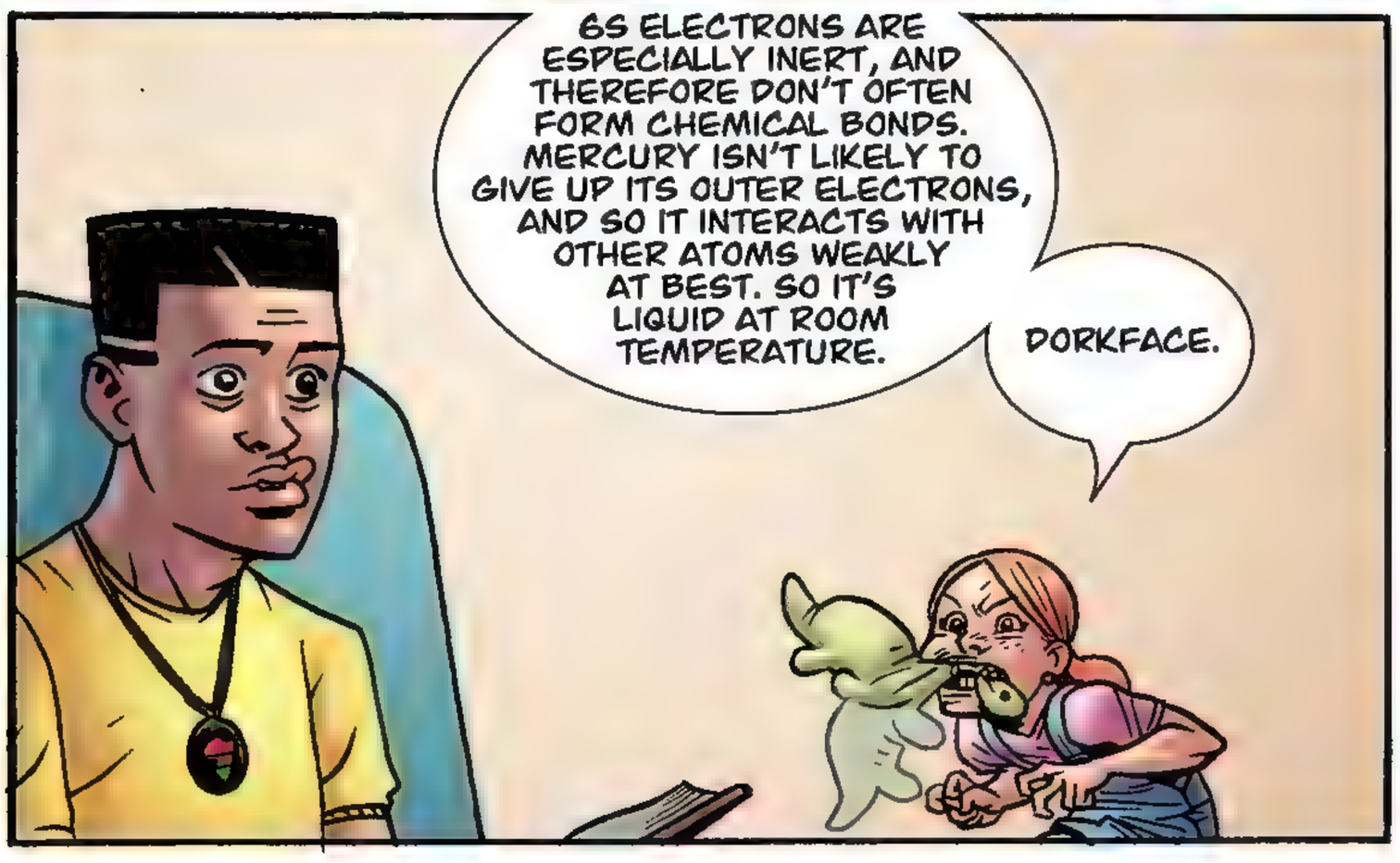
CH2OH

CH2OH-C-OH-C-H-OH-C-H-OH-C-CH2OH-C-H-O...



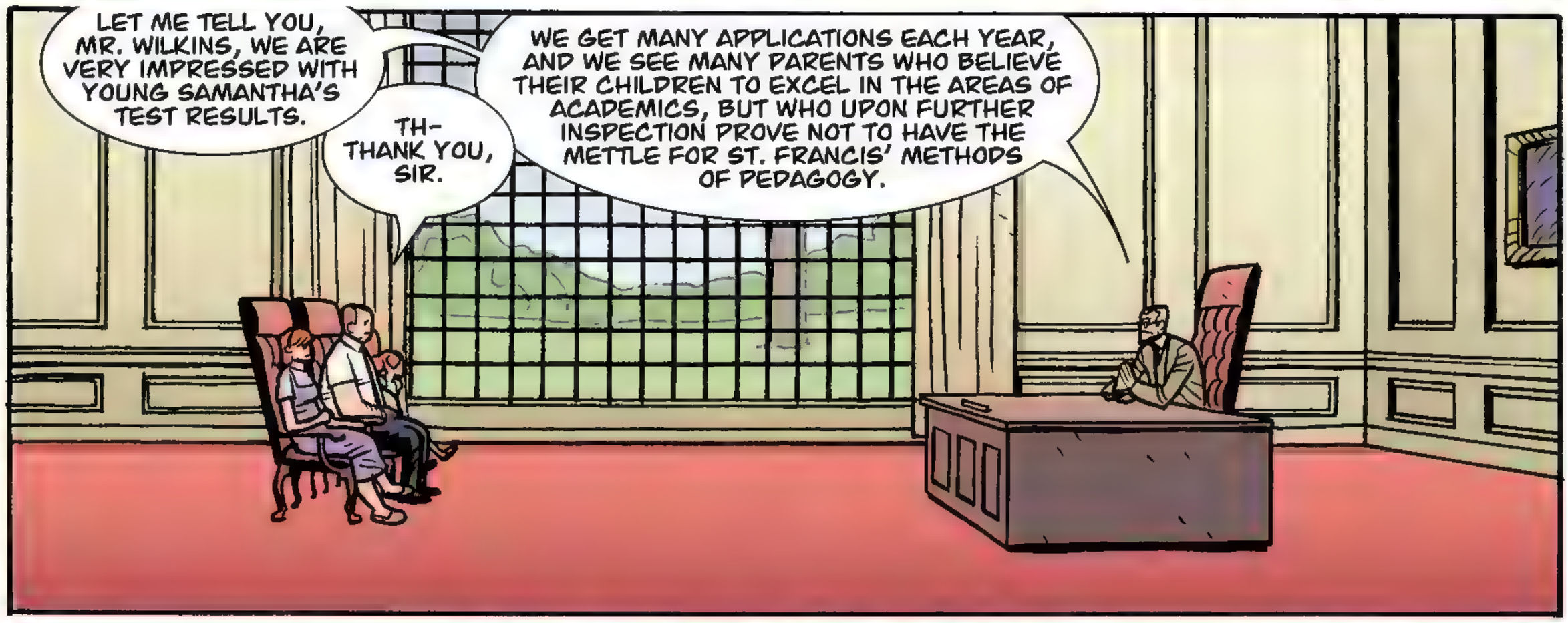

YES, MRS. WILKINS, SAM IS FINE. NO, SHE'S NOT MAKING ANY TROUBLE. YES MA'AM, SHE'S LETTING ME GET MY HOMEWORK DONE. UNFORTUNATELY.
OKAY, GOODBYE.
GRARR!

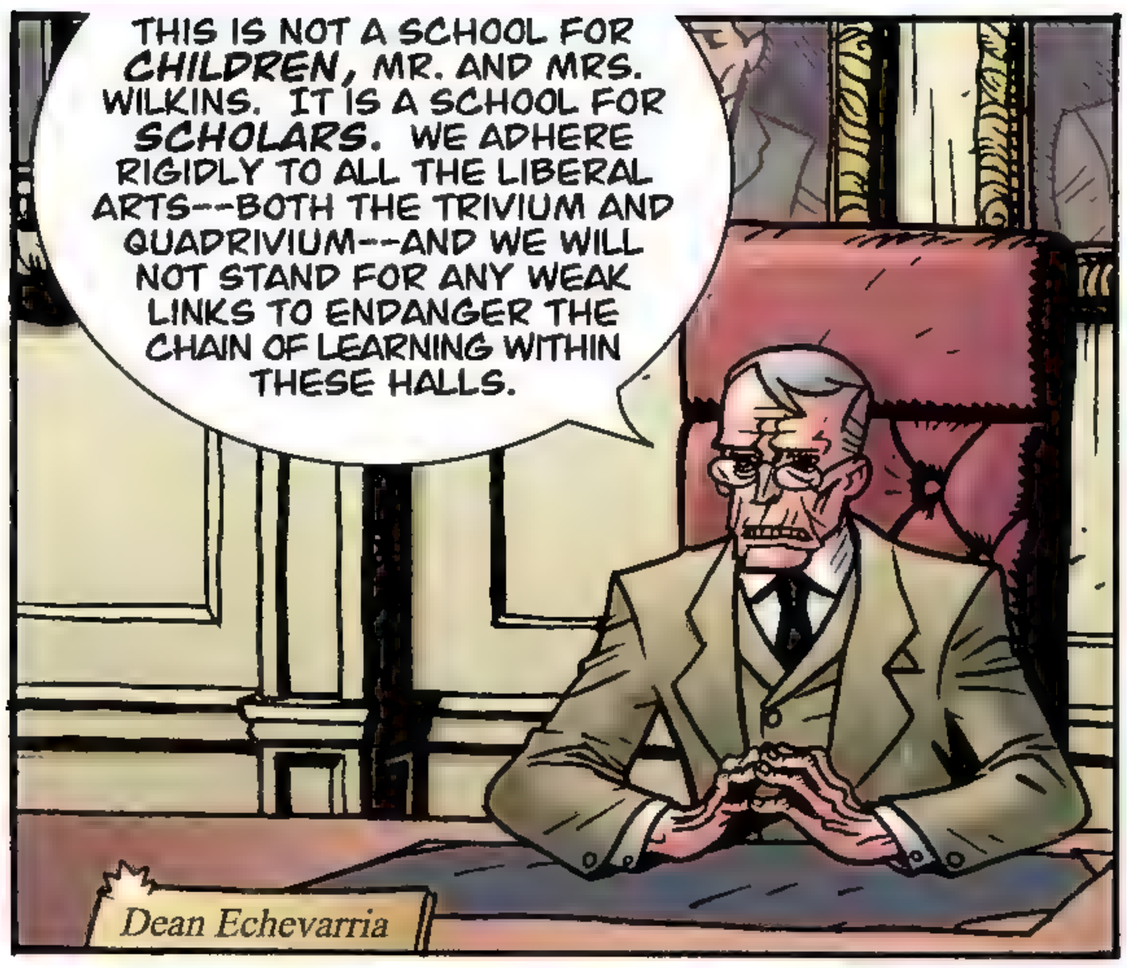

=SIGH= CHEMISTRY.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW WHY MERCURY IS A LIQUID EVEN THOUGH IT'S SURROUNDED BY SOLIDS ON THE PERIODIC TABLE?
BECAUSE ITS VALENCE SHELL IS 5D10 6S2, WHICH MAKES THE TWO OUTER-MOST ELECTRONS IN A SPHERICALLY SYMMETRIC, ENERGETICALLY STABLE QUANTUM STATE.

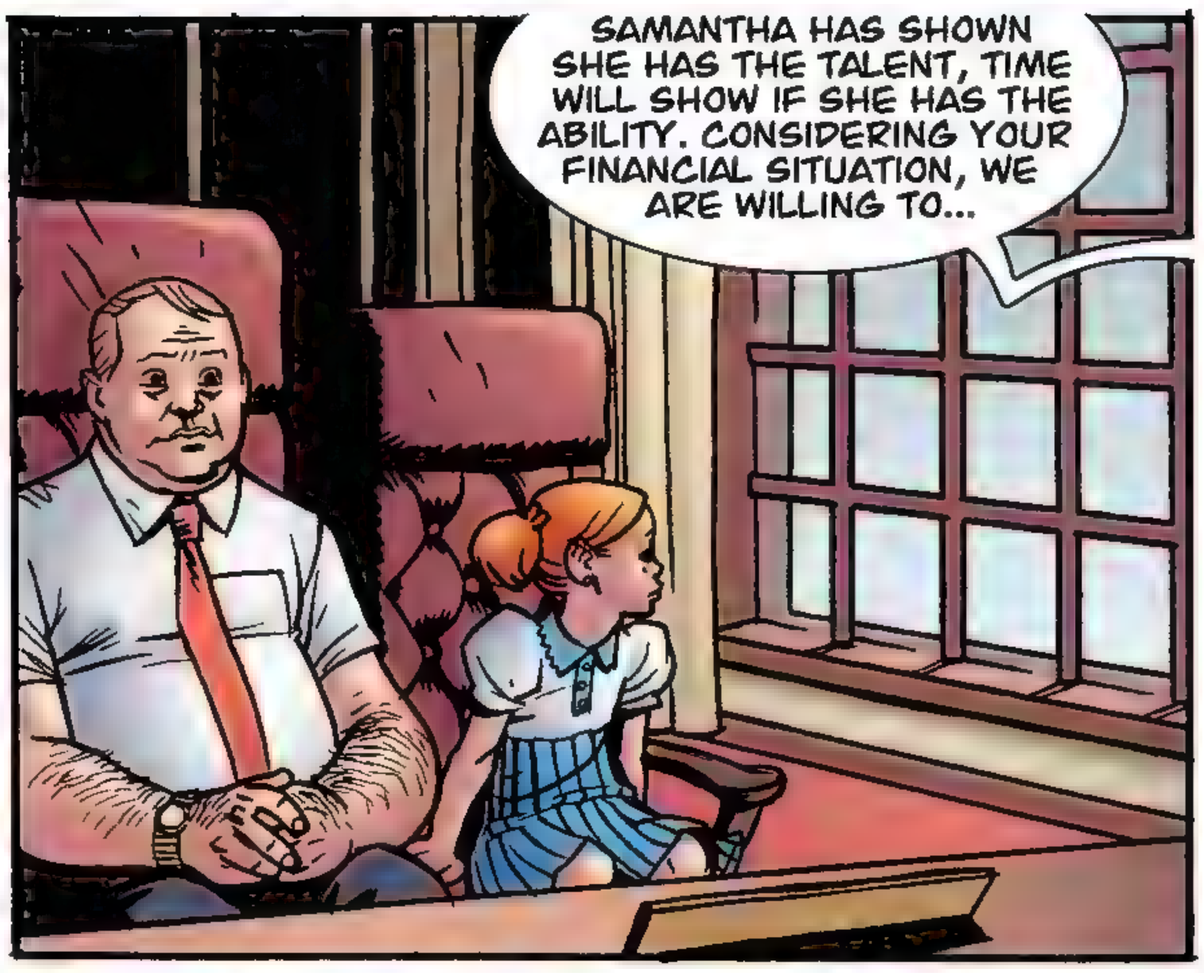

6S ELECTRONS ARE ESPECIALLY INERT, AND THEREFORE DON'T OFTEN FORM CHEMICAL BONDS. MERCURY ISN'T LIKELY TO GIVE UP ITS OUTER ELECTRONS, AND SO IT INTERACTS WITH OTHER ATOMS WEAKLY AT BEST. SO IT'S LIQUID AT ROOM TEMPERATURE.
DORKFACE.


SO, UH... SAM?
HOW'D YOU LIKE TO EARN SOME COOKIES BY TELLING ME HOW ATOMIC NUMBER RELATES TO ATOMIC MASS?

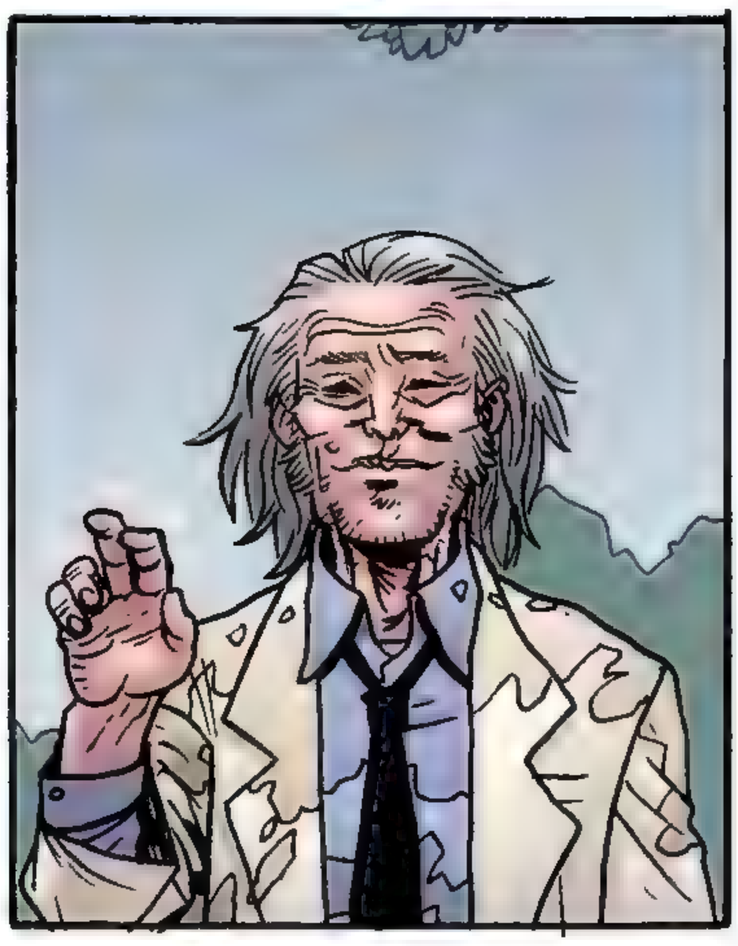

St. FRANCIS
SCHOOL FOR
EXCEPTIONAL YOUTHS


LET ME TELL YOU, MR. WILKINS, WE ARE VERY IMPRESSED WITH YOUNG SAMANTHA'S TEST RESULTS.
TH-THANK YOU, SIR.
WE GET MANY APPLICATIONS EACH YEAR, AND WE SEE MANY PARENTS WHO BELIEVE THEIR CHILDREN TO EXCEL IN THE AREAS OF ACADEMICS, BUT WHO UPON FURTHER INSPECTION PROVE NOT TO HAVE THE METTLE FOR ST. FRANCIS' METHODS OF PEDAGOGY.


THIS IS NOT A SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN, MR. AND MRS. WILKINS. IT IS A SCHOOL FOR SCHOLARS. WE ADHERE RIGIDLY TO ALL THE LIBERAL ARTS--BOTH THE TRIVIUM AND QUADRIVIUM--AND WE WILL NOT STAND FOR ANY WEAK LINKS TO ENDANGER THE CHAIN OF LEARNING WITHIN THESE HALLS.
Dean Echevarria


SAMANTHA HAS SHOWN SHE HAS THE TALENT, TIME WILL SHOW IF SHE HAS THE ABILITY. CONSIDERING YOUR FINANCIAL SITUATION, WE ARE WILLING TO...





TO TELL THE TRUTH--

I DON'T CARE THAT THEY KICKED ME OUT!

YOU WATCH YOUR MOUTH, LITTLE LADY! THAT SCHOOL WAS THE BEST THING YOU HAD GOING FOR YOU!

THEIR STANDARDS WERE TOO HIGH, DAD! I'M JUST A LITTLE GIRL!

WOULD IT HAVE KILLED YOU TO DO YOUR HOMEWORK LIKE YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO?

I *DID* DO MY HOMEWORK, DAD! BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH FOR THEM!

AND WHAT WAS SO HARD YOU COULDN'T DO IT? YOU WERE AT THAT SCHOOL FOR YEARS WITHOUT ANY PROBLEM!

WHAT DOES IT EVEN MATTER, DAD? AS IF THAT'S EVEN THE ONLY PROBLEM!

IT'S SUCH A SCHOOL FULL OF REPRESSED FREAKS, I CAN'T EVEN BELIEVE IT! IF ONE MORE ACNE-LADEN NERD TELLS ME MY EPIDERMIS IS SHOWING, HE'S GOING TO GET A FISTFUL OF PHALANGES IN THE DUODENUM!

AND WHAT POSITION ARE YOU IN TO TALK ABOUT FREAKS, LITTLE MISS? HMM?

I WISH I WERE ADOPTED!

Sm
Samanth
203.1
63.L2
I HATE THIS WHOLE FAMILY AND I WANT THEM TO EXPLODE! OR MELT! OR DECOMPOSE ON A MOLECULAR LEVEL!
SLAM!
NOK! NOK!
AHOY!
WHO IS IT AND GO AWAY!
NICE DRACULA
SAM, HONEY, I BROUGHT YOU SOME DINNER. I DON'T WANT YOU STARVING UP HERE JUST BECAUSE YOU AND DAD HAD A FIGHT. I'LL LEAVE IT HERE. EAT IT WHEN YOU WANT.
Sm
Samanthium
203.1
715.9.L
63.L2
56
OKAY, I HATE YOU LESS NOW, BUT HOW MUCH LESS DEPENDS ON WHAT DINNER IS.
108
Sm
Samanthium
203.1
715.9.L
63.L2
56
YOU CAN GO AWAY NOW.
THANKS, MOM.
CHICKEN?!
I DON'T WANT CHICKEN-- I WANT--
...A CHEESE-BURGER?!
HMM...

HERE, HONEY, OPEN THIS ONE NEXT. IT'S FROM YOUR AUNT PENNY.

MOM
DAD
SAM

LOOK, EVE, IT'S PINK! YOUR FAVORITE!

...AWESOME.

NOT!

HMM...

AWESOME.

SAM, HONEY?

YES MA'AM?

WHERE'D YOU GET *THOSE* CLOTHES?

AUNT PENNY.

RANDOLPH ANIMAL SHELTER

ARF! ARF! ARF! ARF!

DUDE, THIS IS NOT COOL. THESE DOGS ARE **WAY** LOUD.

JUST SHUT UP AND PUT THEM IN THE VAN, DUDE. IF WE CAN GET OUT OF HERE FAST, IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW LOUD THEY ARE.

I KNOW THEY'RE LOUD AND THEY SMELL BAD, DUDE, BUT THESE THINGS ARE TOTALLY WORTH A MINT DOWN AT THE LAB. AND IF YOU CONSIDER THE RAMIFICATIONS OF PET OVER-POPULATION IN THESE UNITED STATES, WE'RE TOTALLY DOING THE WORLD A FAVOR.

YOU MAKE A TOTALLY SWEET POINT, DUDE.

AH! MY DAMN EYE! THAT DOG TOTALLY PISSED IN MY DAMN EYE!

HEY!

UNCOOL. WAY UNCOOL.

--THE HELL?

I SEE YOU'RE COVERED IN PEE.

UH... NO, I'M NOT.

PEE IS ACIDY--

--LET'S MAKE IT EVEN MORE ACIDY.

AHH! MY DAMN EYE!

RUN, DUDE! I THINK SHE'S A POWERPUFF GIRL!

NOW ALL I'VE GOT TO DO--

--IS MAKE SOFT AIR HARD--

--AND MAKE LIGHT MASKS HEAVY!

CLANG!

BOOYAH!

ALL RIGHT, DOGGIES, NO ONE WILL EXPERIMENT ON YOU NOW! I'LL JUST TURN ALL THESE CAGES INTO DOGGIE TREATS AND--

BIG APPLE

CIRCUS

MISS WILKINS--

GAH!

MAD SCIENTIST!

MISS WI-- SAMANTHA-- I'M YOUR FATHER.

NO! YOU'RE NOT! MY FATHER IS A BIG, FAT MEANIE, NOT A LITTLE... CRAZY... OLDIE!

I'M...YOUR FATHER IN SPIRIT, ANYWAY. IT WAS BECAUSE OF ME THAT YOU WERE BORN. HAVE YOU NEVER WONDERED ABOUT YOUR FANTASTIC ABILITIES?

MISS WILKINS, PLEASE CALM DOWN--

WHY DO YOU KNOW MY NAME AND WHY DO I SEE YOU ALWAYS?

UHH... SOMETIMES?

YOU WERE BORN WITH THOSE POWERS BECAUSE I ***DESIGNED*** YOU TO BE. THE GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONED MY SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE TO CREATE THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON CONCEIVABLE--A CONTROLLABLE, HUMAN ATOM BOMB.

I DID THEM ONE BETTER. I MADE ***YOU***. A LIVING, THINKING SCIENCE MACHINE. YOUR POTENTIAL IS UNLIMITED.

BUT I MADE A MISTAKE. I FELL IN LOVE--

--WITH YOUR MOTHER.

WHOA, SICK. MY MOTHER IS ***NOT*** HOT.

NOT BETSY WILKINS, SAMANTHA. YOUR ***REAL*** MOTHER.

I ***KNEW*** I WAS ADOPTED!

NOT ADOPTED IN THE TRADITIONAL SENSE, NO. AS FAR AS THE WILKINSES KNOW, YOU ARE THEIR CHILD. I TRADED YOU WITH THEIR STILLBORN CHILD TO SAVE YOU FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

THAT'S ***GROSS***, DUDE.

SAMANTHA, YOU ***MUST*** LISTEN TO ME. I RISKED MY LIFE TO SAVE YOU FROM THE FATE THAT THEY HAD IN STORE FOR YOU.

OKAY, SO... DON'T KILL PEOPLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT. ***CHECK.***

NO! IT'S MORE THAN THAT! IF THEY KNOW YOU'RE ALIVE, THEY'LL COME FOR YOU! YOU MUST STAY HIDDEN!

AND ABOVE ALL--DO NOT USE YOUR POWERS IN PUBLIC!

SURE THING, "DAD." SEE YOU AT DINNER.

STOP, THIEF, IN THE NAME OF THE LAW!

...OF WHICH I AM NOT A LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE.

THIS JOB JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER AND BETTER. NAME'S "KILLCANNON," GIRL! NOT "GETS BEATEN UP BY GIRLS CANNON." SO I DON'T THINK I'LL BE BEATEN UP BY A LITTLE GIRL.

WANT TO BET, KILLCANNON? I'LL BET YOU...LET'S SAY, TWO BRIEFCASES FULL OF MONEY.

I'LL TAKE THAT BET, YOU WANTON TART!

FUNT!

THAP!

"WANTON TART"? OUCH, MAN. THAT STINGS! TOO BAD I'M RUBBER--

THAP!

KHOOM!

--AND YOU'RE GLUE!

UNGH...

ALL RIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH SCIENCE FOR TODAY.

SOMETIMES A GIRL JUST NEEDS TO PUNCH SOMEBODY--

SOMEBODY WITH A SOUL PATCH.

MISS WILKINS--

FIRST OF ALL, I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU'RE IN EVERY SHADOW EVER, BUT IT'S CREEPY AND IT'S WEIRD, SO CUT IT OUT.

SECOND, I DON'T KNOW ANYONE BY THAT NAME. MY NAME IS ATOM EVE, THE TEEN QUEEN SUPREME.

"ATOM EVE." THAT'S VERY CUTE.

POW!

NO, THE CAPE IS CUTE. THE NAME IS AWESOME.

C'MERE, YOU.

NOW, CAN I HELP YOU WITH SOMETHING?

MISS WI--ER, ATOM EVE, I MUST SAY, YOU HAVE NOT BEEN HEEDING MY ADVICE TO LAY LOW. YOU *WILL* BE FOUND OUT IF YOU CONTINUE THIS COURSE OF ACTION!

KRQK!

THANKS FOR THE TALK, "DAD," BUT I'M USING PROTECTION. I *AM* WEARING A MASK.

UNHUKK!

PLUS, I'M NOT THE ONE SHOUTING PEOPLE'S SECRET IDENTITIES WHILE THEY'RE FIGHTING, AM I?

NOT THAT HE SAID MY REAL NAME OR ANYTHING, DID HE, KILLCANNON?

'SRIGHT, YOU HEARD NOTHING.

UNGH.

HOW MUCH *MORE* CAREFUL COULD I BE?

REC

O'Engleberts BAR & GRILL

UNITED STATES PENTAGON

Parking in Rear

HOW MUCH CLEARER COULD I BE?!

WE DON'T HAVE THE BUDGET FOR THESE KINDS OF FAILURES ANYMORE, GENTLEMEN.

WE NEED ANOTHER SOLID SUCCESS IN THE AREA OF SUPER SOLDIERS BEFORE OUR ENTIRE BRANCH GETS SHUT DOWN.

WELL, THERE IS BRIT...

YES, DONALD, THERE *IS* BRIT. AND BRIT IS... WHAT? EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS OLD? HIS DAYS ARE NUMBERED. WE NEED NEW BLOOD.

RODGERS, HOW ARE YOUR EXPERIMENTS COMING? HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO REPLICATE BRANDYWORTH'S WORK YET?

IN ALL FAIRNESS, SIR, I THINK WE MAY BE WASTING OUR TIME THERE. WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF BRANDYWORTH'S WORK WAS A SUCCESS. EVEN IF THE BABY HAD LIVED--

BRANDYWORTH WAS A ***HACK***, RODGERS! THE FACT THAT HE WAS ABLE TO EVEN GET ***CLOSE*** TELLS ME THAT YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO REPLICATE IT!

WELL, MAYBE IF HE HAD LEFT SOME OF HIS NOTES BEHIND WHEN HE WENT INTO HIDING--

SHUT IT, TOOL! YOU ARE A SUPER-SCIENTIST! YOU WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT! YOU ARE COVERED IN WEIRD, ROBOTY CRAP! YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE ME ***SOMETHING***--

--ANYTHING BETTER THAN THIS!

SIR, I DID EVERYTHING I--

I SAID SHUT IT!

I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO CLONE JESUS FROM SCRATCH HERE, RODGERS.

ALL I WANT IS SOMEONE WHO CAN BLOW THINGS UP WITH MIND BULLETS WHEN I ASK!

IS THAT SO MUCH? DONALD?

ER, NO, MR. ERICKSON.

AND WHAT DO YOU GIVE ME? THIS MELTY, JUMBLEDY, GARBLEY GARBAGE!

I WANT THEM ALL DESTROYED. GET THEM OUT OF MY SIGHT.

SIR, NO!

I'M NOT GOING TO BE SWAYED, DONALD, SO KEEP THE WEEPY-WEEPY INSIDE.

UH, MR. ERICKSON?

YOU MIGHT WANT TO HAVE A LOOK AT THIS.

A NEW SUPERHERO? SO?

4 GEM ROBBERY THWARTED

NO, HE'S RIGHT. THIS NEWS REPORT SAYS THIS GIRL IS DISPLAYING POWERS AND ABILITIES NOT UNLIKE BRANDYWORTH'S ORIGINAL EXPERIMENT, THE ONE WE LOST. AND, SIR... DOESN'T SHE REMIND YOU OF SOMEONE?

BELAY THAT DESTRUCTION ORDER, DONALD. I MAY HAVE A USE FOR THOSE FREAKS AFTER ALL.

AH HAH!

I KNEW THAT WOULD WORK. I SAID TO MYSELF, "EVE, WHERE MIGHT YOU BE TODAY THAT HAS AN ALLEY NEARBY? I BET THAT'S WHERE DOCTOR STALKENSTEIN IS HIDING TODAY!" AND I WAS RIGHT!

BREAD | DELI | DAIRY | WE SELL FOOD! | SHOP E MART

AH, SAMANTHA. THERE YOU ARE. AND WHAT A RELIEF TO SEE YOU, AND ESPECIALLY TO SEE YOU NOT OUT DANGEROUSLY FLAUNTING YOUR ABILITIES.

GOSH, I THOUGHT I MIGHT ACTUALLY GET TO SKIP THE LECTURE TODAY, BUT GO AHEAD, LAY IT ON ME.

I DIDN'T COME HERE TO LECTURE YOU, SAMANTHA. I CAME--

--I CAME TO WISH YOU A HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

WHAT? SERIOUSLY? MY OWN DAD FORGOT MY BIRTHDAY... HOW DID YOU KNOW IT?

YES. WELL. I WAS THERE, AFTER ALL. IT WAS AN IMPORTANT DAY FOR ME, AS WELL.

BREAD

I'M SORRY. I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN. YOU'VE KNOWN ME MY ENTIRE LIFE, AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME.

MY NAME IS DR. ELIAS BRANDYWORTH, AND UNTIL THE DAY YOU WERE BORN, I USED TO BE AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE PENTAGON'S SUPERHUMAN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BRANCH.

SINCE THEN, THOUGH, I MOSTLY EAT OUT OF TRASH CANS.

I NOTICE YOU'VE MANAGED TO KEEP YOUR LAB COAT CRISP AND WHITE, THOUGH.

DR

YES. WELL. I DIDN'T DO ALL THOSE YEARS OF POST-GRADUATE WORK TO BE KNOWN AS *MISTER* BRANDYWORTH, EVEN AMONG HOBOS.

WELL, **DOCTOR** BRANDYWORTH, WHY DON'T WE GO GET A CUP OF COFFEE OR SOMETHING? MY TREAT.

SO, DOC, IF YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT MY PAST, WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT MY MOTHER?

Y-YOUR MOTHER?

YEAH, YOU SAID YOU KNEW HER, AND OBVIOUSLY SHE WAS PART OF YOUR EXPERIMENT.

MIYAZAI

SHE WAS A LOVELY WOMAN. YOU REMIND ME OF HER QUITE A BIT, ACTUALLY.

SO WAS SHE YOUR LAB ASSISTANT OR SOMETHING? IS THAT WHERE MY SCIENCE SMARTS COME FROM?

21+ DOORS 8PM
$10 COVER

AH...YES. YES, THAT'S PRECISELY IT.

DOC, I'M SORRY. OBVIOUSLY THAT'S A SORE SUBJECT. LET'S JUST GO GET THAT--

--COFFEE?

SAMANTHA--

SAMANTHA, NO! THEY WILL FIND YOU!

THEY HAVEN'T FOUND ME YET, DOC! WHAT IF THE POLICE CAN'T HANDLE THIS? WHAT IF SOMEONE GETS HURT? I'VE GOTTA GO.

DOC...I GOTTA.

YES, BUT WHAT IF--?

I CAN'T LOSE YOU, TOO.



ATOM EVE #2



THIS LOOKS LIKE A BIG ONE! I WONDER WHAT IT IS? BANK ROBBERY? MAN, I BET THERE ARE HOSTAGES!

JEEZ, LOOK AT ALL THOSE COPS! I THINK I'M ABOUT TO GRADUATE TO BIG-LEAGUE CRIME-FIGHTING!

LOOK, I DON'T CARE WHAT THAT "HARD-HITTING EXPOSÉ" SAID--*CAPES INCORPORATED* DOESN'T EMPLOY LITTLE GIRLS IN PINK SKIRTS.

SO YOU'RE SAYING THEY'RE NOT LOOKING FOR ONE OF YOURS.

THAT IS WHAT I'M SAYING, YES.

WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE PROBLEM, OFFICERS?

HOSTAGE SITUATION, BAD GUYS WON'T LET ANYONE GO UNTIL--WAIT A MINUTE! YOU'VE GOT TO BE THE ONE THEY'RE LOOKING FOR!

WAIT, WHAT?

PINK SKIRT, RED HAIR... THEY'RE ASKING FOR YOU--THAT'S WHY THEY'RE HERE. WE DIDN'T HAVE YOU ON FILE...

ATOM EVE. STAND ASIDE, JOHNNY LAW.

WAIT, ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE UP TO THIS? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT *EIGHT*.

DUDE, NO, IT'S TOTALLY COOL. BIG TIME HERO.

NO SWEAT.

RIOTT

SO THE REPORTS WERE TRUE-- YOU ARE ALIVE.

IF YOU BEHAVE, YOU'LL GET TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.

I-I'M SORRY, D-DO I KNOW YOU?

I SPENT MOST OF MY LIFE IN A TUBE.

AFTER YOU "DIED," THEY THOUGHT THEY'D TRY AGAIN-- MOVE ON.

SO I WAS BORN, AND THEY TRIED TO TEACH ME TO BE AS GOOD AS--*HTT!*

AH!

AS GOOD AS YOU, THE DAUGHTER WHO WAS PERFECT IN THEIR MINDS.

SPLAT!

I-I'M SOR--

AND I TRIED AND TRIED AND FAILED AND FAILED TO LIVE UP TO THE PICTURE OF YOU IN THEIR MINDS, AND THEY'D STICK ME BACK IN THE TUBE.

TO THEM, YOU HAD NO FLAWS, BECAUSE THEY'D ***NEVER EVEN MET YOU!*** HOW COULD I COMPETE?

AND NOW IT TURNS OUT YOU'RE ALIVE. AND YOU *ARE* AS PERFECT AS THEY SAID.

AND I HATE YOU FOR IT!

SPLAT!

WE ALL DO.

THE LITTLE ONES MIGHT EVEN HATE YOU MORE THAN I, IN FACT. BUT THEY COULDN'T TELL YOU IN SO MANY WORDS.

UNLIKE MYSELF, THEY WERE NEVER OUT OF THE TUBE LONG ENOUGH TO LEARN TO TALK.

WROKK!

BUT THEY'VE FOUND OTHER WAYS TO EXPRESS THEIR FEELINGS FOR YOU.

THAT WAY, YOU IDIOTS! SHE'S OVER THERE!

DEAR GOD, I'VE BEEN A GOOD GIRL THIS YEAR. PLEASE EXCHANGE THESE SCARY CHILDREN FOR FIVE TINY KILLCANNONS AND I WON'T ASK FOR ANYTHING ELSE AS LONG AS I LIVE. LOVE, SAM. XOXO.

NO HIDING!

SKROOM!

HAI!

SHUNK!

YOU--YOU'RE TRYING TO KILL ME, AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME.

MY NAME?

MY NAME IS PHASE TWO, TAKE TWO, TRY AGAIN. SECOND BORN, **SECOND BEST.**

MY NAME IS "GET BACK IN THE TUBE, BOY! YOU MAKE ME SICK!"

SHOES.

WALKERS

BONK!

SHOES.

NO!

SODIUM... HYDROGEN, CARBON... THREE PARTS OXYGEN...

SHOES.

STEADY, STEADY...

GAH!

THAT'S ABOUT ENOUGH OF *THAT.*

WHUMM

AHUH...
AHUH...
AHUH...

OH...OH, GOD. I HOPE THOSE HOSTAGES ARE GETTING AWAY SAFELY. OH, GOD.

KROOM!!

KNOCK, KNOCK, SIS.

WE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO SEE WHO WE FOUND OUT IN THE CROWD LOOKING FOR YOU.

EVE...EVE, I'M SO SORRY.

NO!

SHLUK!

SHLUK!

SHLUK!

SHLUK!

COME ON, DOC! THIS WAY!

DVDS

OKAY, DOC, WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME MY POWERS HAVE LIMITS? THOSE KIDS CHANGE INTO THINGS, I CAN'T CHANGE THEM BACK. ATOMS *AROUND* THEM, ATOMS *INSIDE* THEM--AS YOU SAW-- OKAY, BUT NOT *THEM*. WHAT'S GOING ON?

I...I HAD TO DO IT, EVE. OTHERWISE YOU'D BE OMNIPOTENT. WE HAD TO GIVE YOU LIMITS.

YOU COULD TURN BLOOD TO CHOCOLATE OR HEARTS TO BUNNIES. YOU COULD EVEN ALTER MINDS BY AFFECTING THE CHEMICALS IN PEOPLE'S BRAINS... WE COULDN'T HAVE THAT. NOTHING SHOULD BE THAT POWERFUL.

THE ONLY WAY TO STOP THAT WAS TO IMPLANT A MENTAL BLOCK--TO GIVE YOU A SUBCONSCIOUS REFUSAL TO ALTER LIVING ANIMAL MASS.

YES, BUT--

UNH!

YOU LEAVE MY DADDY ALONE!

KRAKD-LOOM!

OKAY, SIS...

SHUK!

KRAK!

IT'S ON!

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME?

WHY? YOU, SISTER, ARE THE ONLY REASON WE EXIST! OUR SINGULAR PURPOSE IN CREATION, OUR DESTINY, IS TO DO--

CHOOM!!

--THIS!

WROKK!

TO DO THIS-- UNF--

GOOM!

TO DO THIS, AND THEN TO DIE.

NO GOOD OUT OF THE TUBE--NOT FOR LONG AT LEAST. NO MATTER, THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT US, NOW.

NOW THEY HAVE *YOU.*

WHAT?!

GOOD-BYE, EVE.

IT WAS...NICE....
TO MEET YOU....

I...I GUESS I WON...

...

HOORAY.

EVE!

PLEASE
• NO PETS
• NO SKATING
• NO LITTERING

DOC...

THIS SHOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED. THEY SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME OUT OF THEIR TANKS. THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN MADE AT ALL. THEY WEREN'T STABLE. THEY WEREN'T PERFECT--

--NOT LIKE YOU.

DOC, I NEED YOU TO TELL ME...

TELL YOU WHAT, SAMANTHA?

ARE... ARE YOU MY REAL FATHER?

EVE, I--

WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP

AWW, SO VERY SWEET.

NOW COME ALONG QUIETLY. WE DON'T WANT TO DRAW ANY UNDUE ATTENTION TO OURSELVES.

FIGURE OF SPEECH, CHICLET. NOW GET IN THE CHOPPER.

YOU...YOU CAME IN A HELICOPTER.

BRIGHT BOY

SAUSAGE KING

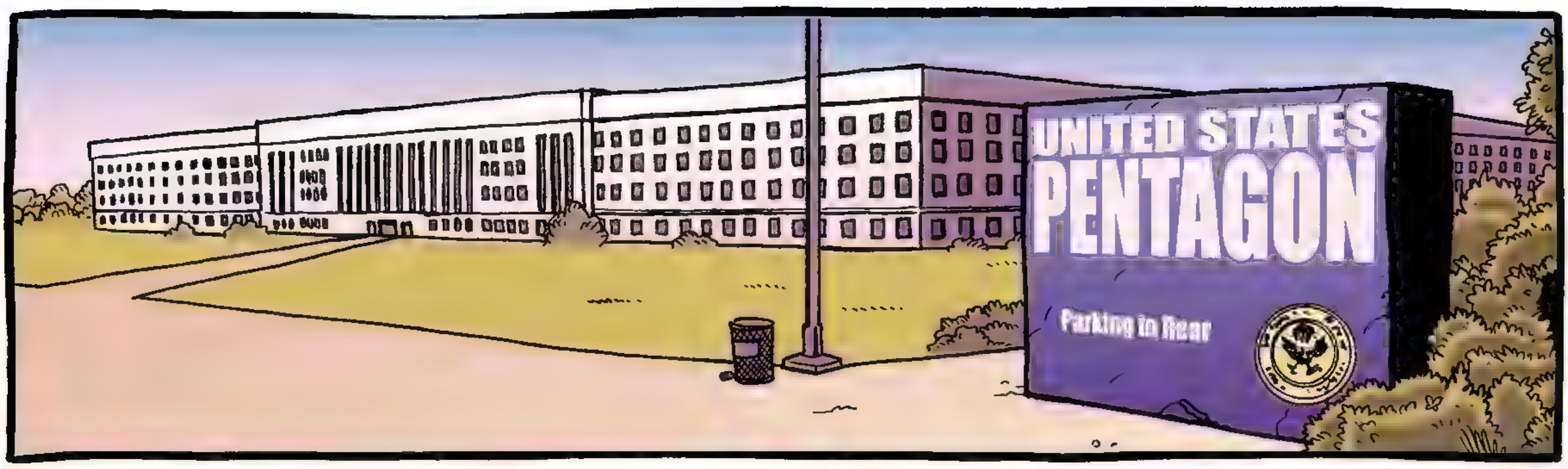
I DON'T WANT ANY FANCY SCIENCE GOING ON IN HERE. I SEE SO MUCH AS A FLASH OF PINK, AND I PAINT THE CHOPPER WITH THE INSIDES OF DOC'S HEAD.

WHY DID YOU KILL THEM?

KILL WHO? TERRORISTS? HIPPIES? BUDDY HOLLY AND THE BIG BOPPER? YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BE MORE SPECIFIC.

THOSE CHILDREN. WHY DID YOU KILL THOSE CHILDREN?

TO GET TO *YOU*, DOLLFACE. YOU'RE WORTH A THOUSAND MELTY CHILDREN.


UNITED STATES
PENTAGON
Parking in Rear


PLEASE, ERICKSON, LET THE CHILD GO. SHE'S A HUMAN BEING WITH RIGHTS AND A LIFE OF HER OWN!
SHE'S A WEAPON. MY WEAPON. AND IT'S TAKEN ME YEARS TO GET HER BACK AFTER YOUR BULLCRAP TURN AS A HERO.


OKAY, I SURRENDER MYSELF. DO WHAT YOU WANT WITH ME, JUST LET DOCTOR BRANDYWORTH GO.
HA HA HA! LET HIM GO? CHILD, THAT'S FUNNY. THE GOOD DOC KNOWS FULL WELL THAT TREASON IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON, AND THAT SEASON--
--IS DEATH CHRISTMAS.


I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO WITH ME. THERE'S LITTLE LEFT FOR ME TO LIVE FOR ANYWAY. BUT LET THE CHILD GO. DON'T KILL HER WITH THIS LIFE LIKE YOU DID TO HER MOTHER.
HA! YOU THINK WE KILLED HER MOTHER? RODGERS, IF YOU PLEASE.
TEK

WHERE IS IT YOU THINK WE GOT ALL THOSE OTHER CHILDREN FROM? MAIL ORDER?

YOU MONSTER!

NO!

UH UH.

I DON'T THINK SO.

SEEING YOUR LITTLE WOMAN REALLY MADE YOU COME ALIVE, EH, DOC?

IRK!

WE DON'T NEED HER ANYMORE NOW THAT WE'VE GOT THE REAL THING, AM I RIGHT?

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

BASTARD!

NNG!

OH, I'M GOING TO ENJOY THIS.

BLAM!

NO!

AND ONE TO GROW ON.

BLAM!

YOU... BASTARDS...

...KILLED...

...MY WHOLE FAMILY.

SIR, WE HAVE TO ACT QUICKLY! THIS SEVERE TRAUMA MIGHT BE ENOUGH TO OVERRIDE THE MENTAL DAMPERS WE PLACED ON HER TO KEEP HER FROM AFFECTING LIVING--

THEN SHUT YOUR PORKHOLE AND LET ME SHOOT!

KLK. KLK. KLK.

KSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS!

GAH!

I SEE IT ALL NOW-- ALL OF IT. EVERY LITTLE PIECE OF MATTER THAT MAKES UP EVERY LITTLE THING AROUND US. I CAN TOUCH IT, TASTE IT--CONTROL IT. NOTHING IS BEYOND MY REACH.

SENTIENT ORGANIC CONSTRUCTS ARE BUT A REFLEX AWAY-- I COULD REARRANGE THE CELLS OF YOUR BRAIN TO CREATE AN ENTIRELY NEW PERSONALITY--A NEW PERSON.

I COULD KILL YOU BY CHANGING WHO YOU ARE. YOU WOULD DESERVE IT TOO!

YOU RUINED MY LIFE! YOU TOOK EVERYTHING FROM ME!

YOU HUNTED ME AND HOUNDED ME AND KILLED EVERYTHING I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YET THAT I LOVED!

AND NOW I **DEFY** YOU.

I AM **SAMANTHA EVE WILKINS**, AND I DEFY YOU TO EVEN REMEMBER WHO I AM!

GKK.

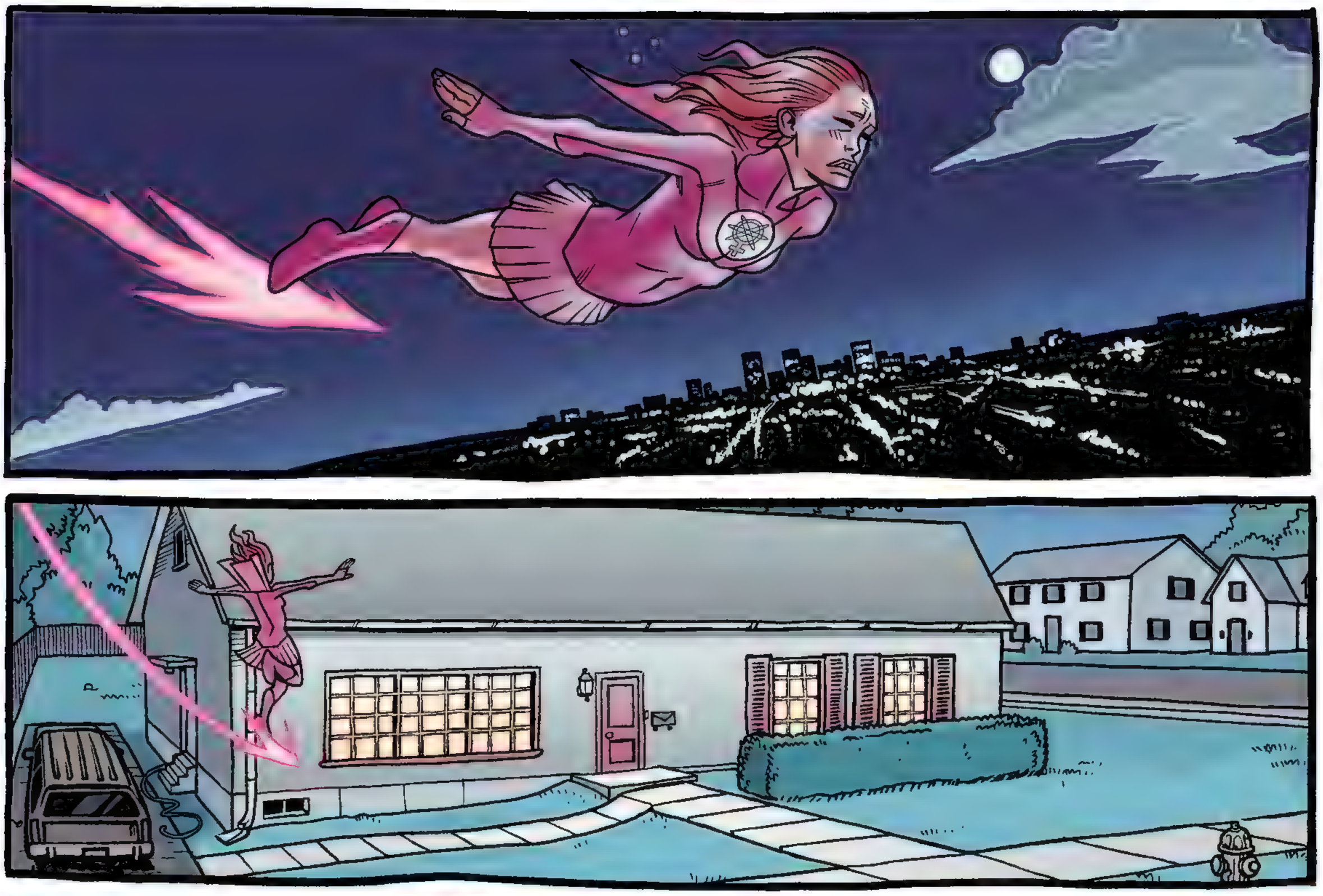
AHUH...
AHUH...
HH...

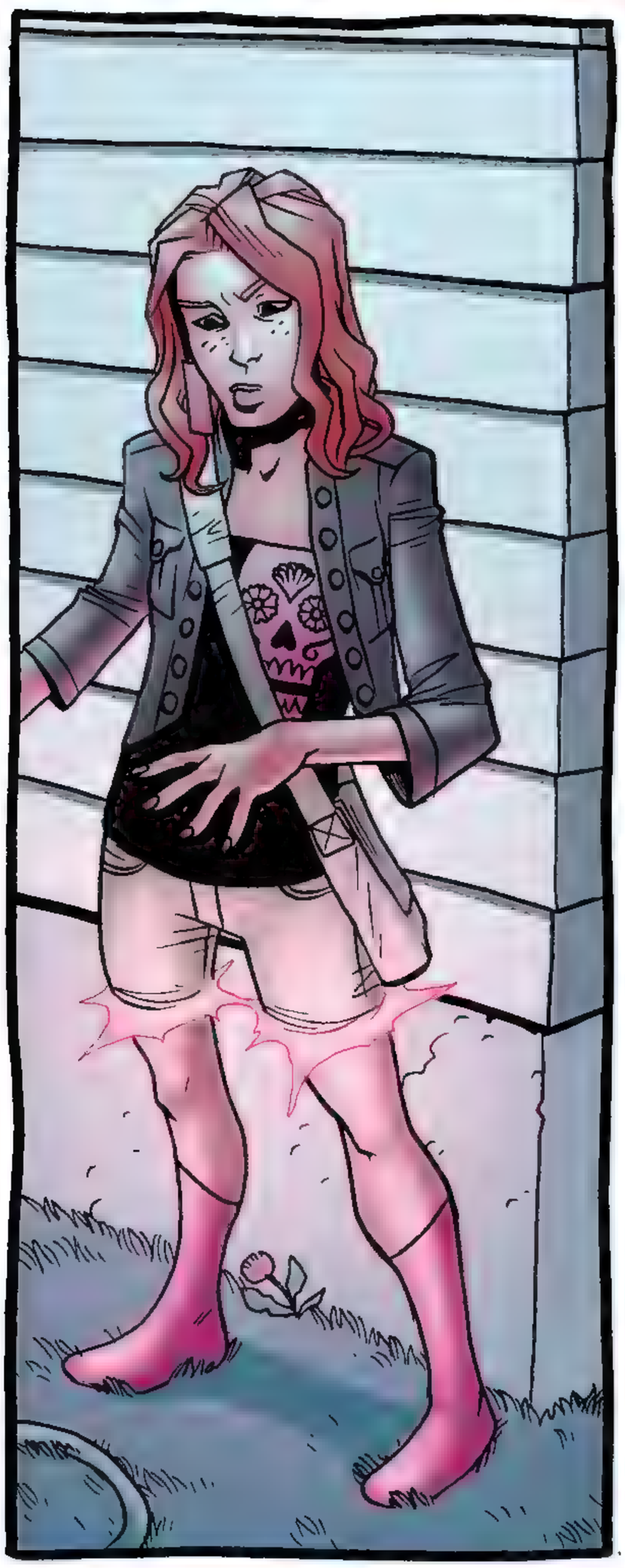
FOR ONE MOMENT, I HAD THE POWER. I COULD HAVE FIXED IT.

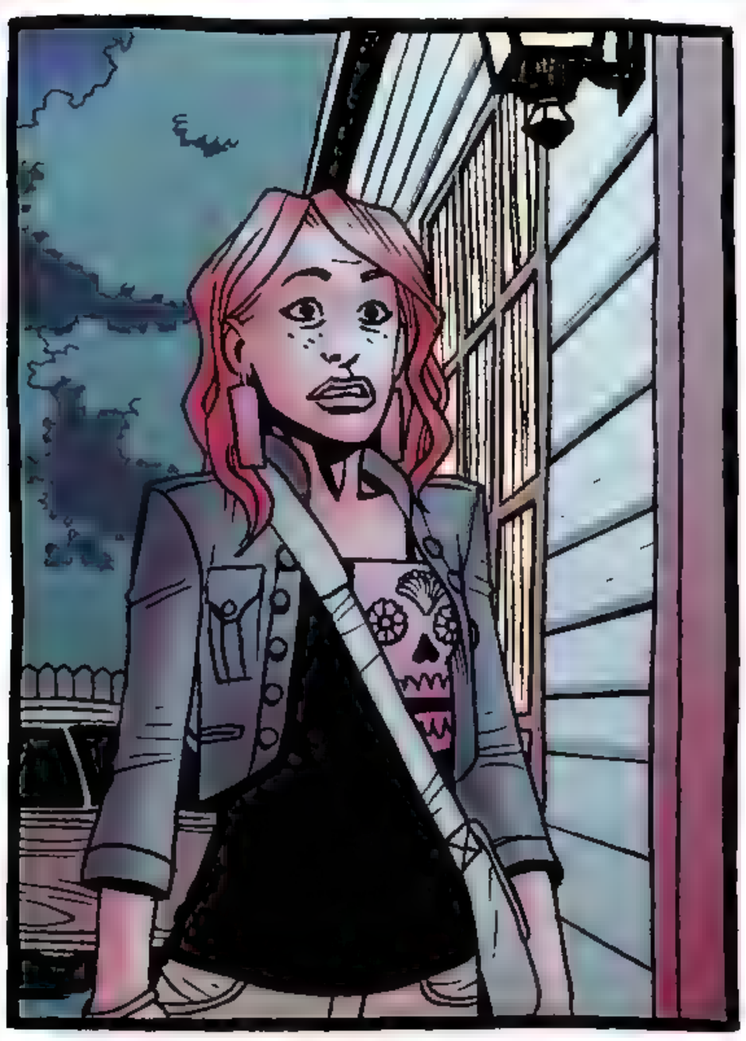
I COULD HAVE BROUGHT YOU BACK. BUT I USED IT FOR REVENGE INSTEAD.

I'M SORRY, MOM AND DAD.

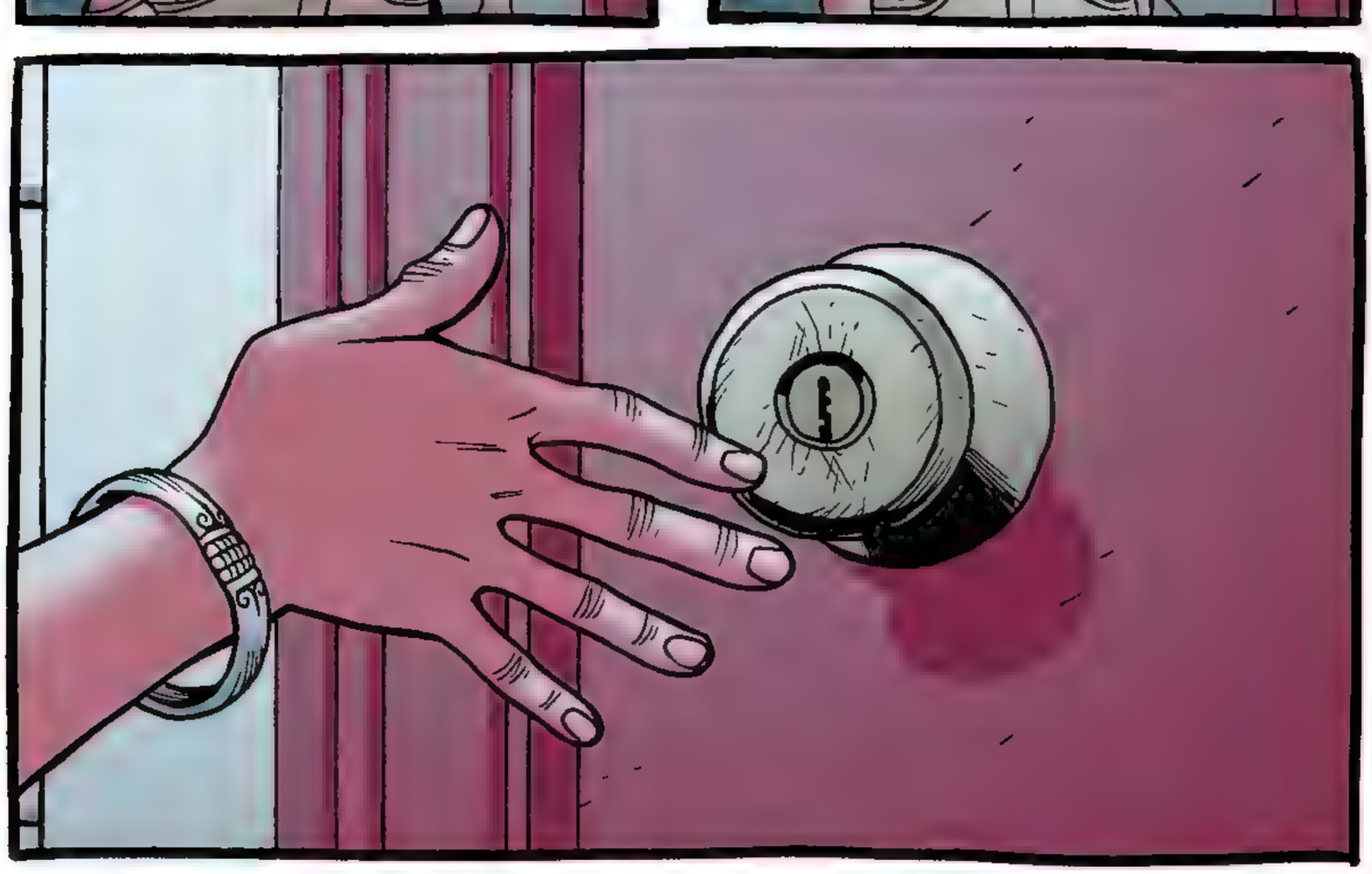
I LOVE YOU.








HOO, BOY.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY SAM!

OH... OH, GOD.

AND JUST WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN, YOUNG LADY?

HAVE--HAVE YOU BEEN SITTING HERE SINCE SCHOOL ENDED?

DON'T YOU DARE TRY TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT! YOUR MOTHER AND I HAVE BEEN WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU! THINK ABOUT *THAT* INSTEAD OF HOW LONG WE'VE BEEN SITTING HERE!

ADAM, JUST--

DON'T YOU STICK UP FOR HER! LET HER TALK FOR HERSELF! YOU COULDN'T CALL? YOU COULDN'T ASK PERMISSION TO STAY OUT LATE? YOU COULDN'T LET US KNOW YOU WERE OKAY AFTER THAT EXPLOSION AT THE MALL? *HUH?*

Happy Birthday Samantha!

DID...DID YOU EAT MY CAKE?

WHERE WERE YOU?! WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?! HOW DARE YOU?!

IT WAS MY BIRTHDAY! I THOUGHT I COULD GET AWAY WITH NOT SPENDING EVERY SECOND OF IT WITH MY STUPID FAMILY!

YOU MAY THINK WE'RE STUPID, LITTLE MISSY, BUT LIKE IT OR NOT, WE'RE THE ONLY FAMILY YOU'VE GOT.

NINA

SLAM!

MY FAMILY

ONLY ONE I'VE GOT...

MY FAMILY



ATOM EVE & REX SPLODE #1



Sam's
STORAGE
MONTHLY
PIZZERIA
farm fresh
4 for
YOU LITTLE JERK! GET BACK HERE!
SOMEBODY STOP HIM!
HEY!
STOP!
CRAP, HE'S--!
WHUMP!
HEH!

PLINK!

PING!

FWA-BADSH!

BONK!

UNF!

TSK, TSK, YOUNG MAN.

YOU SHOULD KNOW YOU CAN'T ESCAPE THE LONG ARM OF JOHNNY LAW.

ALL RIGHT, I GUESS I'LL GO QUIETLY. JUST DON'T HIT ME WITH ANY MORE SPACE WEAPONS.

I'M NOT GOING TO ARREST YOU. I JUST WANT TO ASK YOU A QUESTION.

DON'T YOU KNOW IT'S BAD TO STEAL?

I KNOW IT'S NOT SO BAD THAT MY MOM STARVING WOULDN'T BE WORSE. GOTTA STEAL IF WE WANT TO *LIVE*.

HA! VERY "*ALADDIN*," ISN'T IT?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT IS. IS THERE ANYTHING *ELSE* YOU WANT?

YES--HOW DO YOU THINK YOUR PARENTS WOULD FEEL ABOUT YOU STEALING DINNER?

WHO DO YOU THINK SENT ME, DUMBASS?

HMPH. HAH.

HAHAHAH.

AHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!

REX, SON, I KNOW IT'S LIGHT AND EASY TO CARRY, BUT DO YOU THINK NEXT TIME YOU COULD GET SOMETHING A LITTLE... HEARTIER? IT *IS* CHRISTMAS.

SORRY, DAD.

NOK! NOK!

HUH? HONEY, DID YOU ORDER A...

...LARGE, BLA--

MR. SLOAN. GOOD EVENING.

MRS. SLOAN, HELLO. YOUNG REX, A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU AGAIN. PLEASE, ALL OF YOU HAVE A SEAT.

MY NAME IS *RADCLIFFE*. I WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT. BUT BEFORE WE GET DOWN TO BUSINESS, I'VE BROUGHT YOU SOME SUPPER.

STEAK!

AND IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS, I'VE BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING **ELSE**. I'M PREPARED TO MAKE YOU A VERY GENEROUS OFFER.

ENOUGH TO BUY MORE STEAK THAN YOU CAN EAT IN SEVERAL LIFETIMES.

SEVERAL?

MR. SLOAN, I ***KNOW*** THIS WASN'T THE LIFE YOU WANTED. NOT WHAT YOU MEANT TO GIVE TO YOUR FAMILY. I CAN GIVE YOU EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER DESIRED. YOU CAN BE OUT OF THIS PLACE. OUT OF THIS LIFE, AS IF IT NEVER EXISTED. AND INTO A LIFE BEYOND YOUR WILDEST, MOST CUPIDINOUS DREAMS.

OKAY, ALL RIGHT, MISTER RADCLIFFE. BUT WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU? CAN'T FOR THE LIFE OF ME THINK OF ANYTHING I HAVE THAT YOU MIGHT WANT.

I ASSURE YOU, MR. SLOAN, THERE IS SOMETHING...

HAH! THE BOY?

IS THAT ALL?

MR. RADCLIFFE, YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A **DEAL!**

SO...IS THIS PLACE WHERE YOU *LIVE*, OR WHERE YOU *WORK?*

HAHA, REX. THIS IS WHERE I LIVE *AND* WHERE I WORK. AND MORE IMPORTANTLY...

IT'S WHERE *YOU* LIVE AND WORK, TOO.

THIS... THIS IS FOR *ME?*

YES.

AND THESE GUYS WORK FOR YOU?

YES.

AND YOU WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

HAH! IF NOT, YOUR PARENTS ARE SURE GOING TO BE MAD I LIED TO THEM!

NO...

NO, PROBABLY NOT.

"NOW, I KNOW WE'VE TRAINED FOR A LONG TIME. AND THAT'S GOOD, BECAUSE THESE THINGS TAKE TIME. YOU CAN'T SAVE AMERICA IN A DAY, MUCH LESS THE WORLD.

"AND IT'S BEEN HARD, I KNOW. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME GOOD TIMES, BUT THEY CALL IT WORK FOR A REASON.

"I'VE DONE WHAT I CAN TO HELP YOU. TRIED TO MAKE YOU ***STRONGER***. MAKE YOU ***TOUGHER***.

"BUT SOME THINGS YOU HAVE TO DO ON YOUR OWN. AND I KNOW YOU CAN DO THEM.

"BECAUSE I KNOW YOU'VE GOT A FIRE IN YOU. MOXIE, GUSTO, THE EYE OF THE TIGER. WHATEVER YOU WANT TO CALL IT."

AND THAT'S WHY I KNOW, WHEN YOU COME OUT OF THAT OPERATING ROOM, YOU'LL BE STRONGER FOR IT. NOT JUST STRONGER THAN YOU WERE, BUT STRONGER THAN ANY OTHER MAN I COULD HAVE SENT IN THERE.

GOOD LUCK, SON.

I COULD TELL YOU THINGS ARE GOING SWIMMINGLY, DIRECTOR RADCLIFFE, BUT I FEAR I'D BE UNDERSELLING IT.

HMPH. EXCELLENT, EXCELLENT.

--AND IF YOU FLEX A LITTLE, I THINK YOU'LL FIND THE CHARGING PROCESS COMES NATURALLY.

YOU'LL FIND THAT YOUR CHARGE IS ONLY EFFECTIVE ON INORGANIC OBJECTS. I MEAN THAT IN THE LAYMAN'S TERM, NOT THAT YOU CAN ONLY CHARGE OBJECTS WITHOUT CARBON IN THEM. BUT I THINK YOU'LL DISCOVER THAT PLANTS, ANIMALS, AND PEOPLE ARE NOT AFFECTED BY YOUR CHARGE.

YOUR CHARGE IMBUES THESE OBJECTS WITH ENOUGH ENERGY TO MAKE THEM HIGHLY UNSTABLE. BUT! THIS IS ONLY ***POTENTIAL*** ENERGY. IT TAKES A SMALL AMOUNT OF ***KINETIC*** ENERGY AS A CATALYST--A BUMP, A DROP, A NUDGE--TO TURN ALL THAT POTENTIAL ENERGY INTO BIG BOOMS.

ALSO, THE INJECTIONS WE'VE BEEN GIVING YOU HAVE NOT ONLY INCREASED YOUR STRENGTH AND REFLEXES, BUT HAVE GONE CONSIDERABLE LENGTHS TO INCREASE THE DENSITY OF YOUR SKIN AND MUSCLE FIBER, MAKING YOU LARGELY RESILIENT TO YOUR OWN EXPLOSIONS.

NOW, THAT'S A LOT OF INFORMATION FOR A LITTLE BOY. IS EVERYTHING CLEA--ACK!

KRAK!

YEAH, I THINK I GOT IT.

FULLY DEBRIEFED IN HERE?

ENOUGH TALKING, I'D SAY. WHEN DO I GET TO TRY OUT THIS GARBAGE?

OH, I THINK YOU'LL HAVE A CHANCE FOR A TEST RUN VERY, VERY SOON.

КВАКАДЕМИЯ

REXY BOY, YOU DID *BRILLIANTLY*. A TESTAMENT TO YOUR TRAINING AND DETERMINATION.

WHICH IS WHY I'VE GOT A *NEW* MISSION FOR YOU ALREADY. HERE'S YOUR UNDERCOVER DOCUMENTS.

PORT

"REX RADCLIFFE"?

AN INDULGENCE ON MY PART. I HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE ME.

MR. RADCLIFFE...WE'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING, AREN'T WE? I MEAN, WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS, RIGHT?

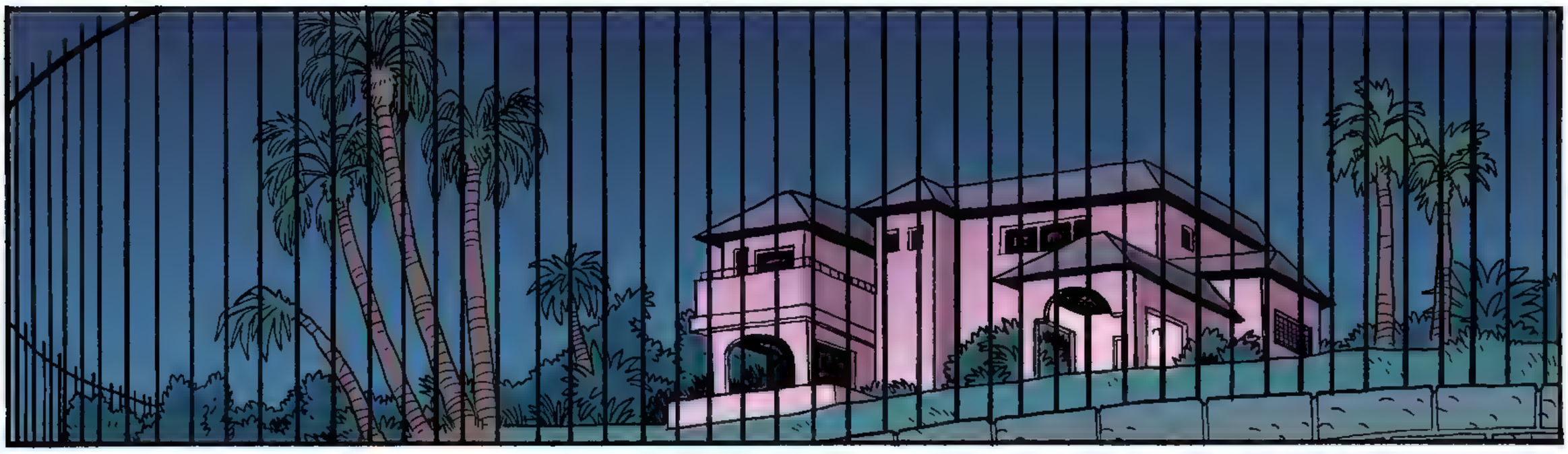
OF *COURSE* WE ARE! WHY WOULD YOU EVEN ASK?

I DON'T KNOW. I MEAN, STEALING THINGS, HURTING PEOPLE. *KILLING* PEOPLE. HOW CAN THAT BE OKAY?

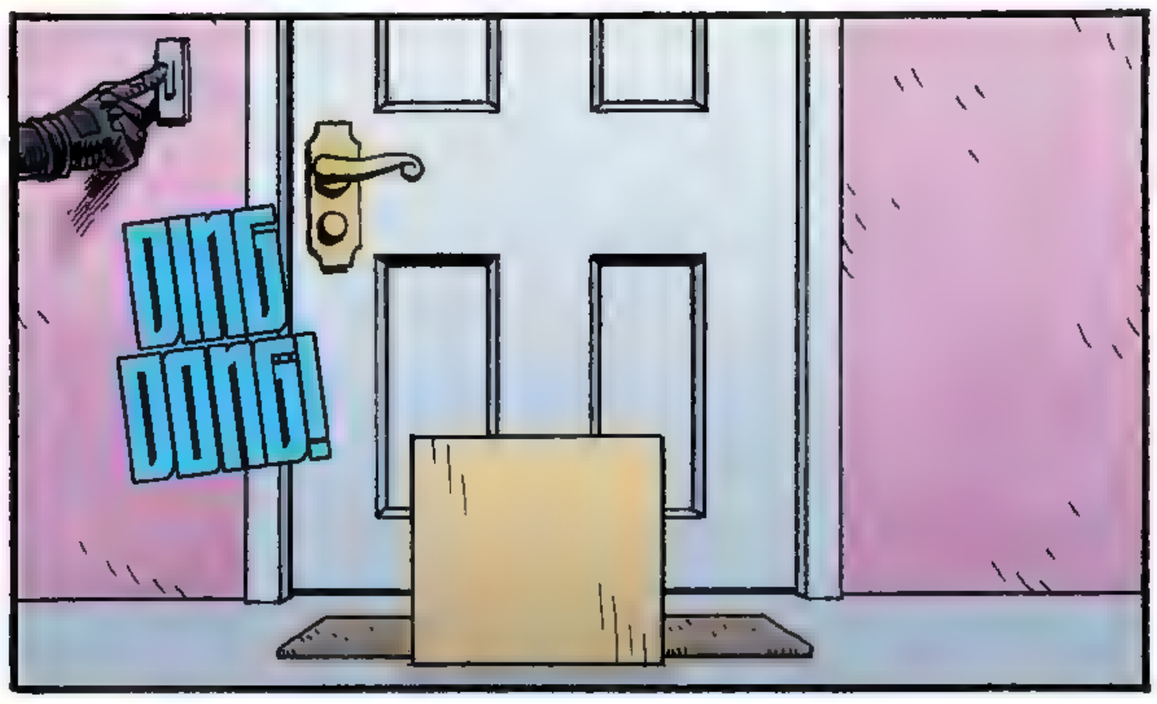
REX. REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME WE MET? THE FIRST TIME WE TALKED? HOW YOU SAID YOUR STEALING WAS OUTWEIGHED BY YOUR FAMILY'S HUNGER.

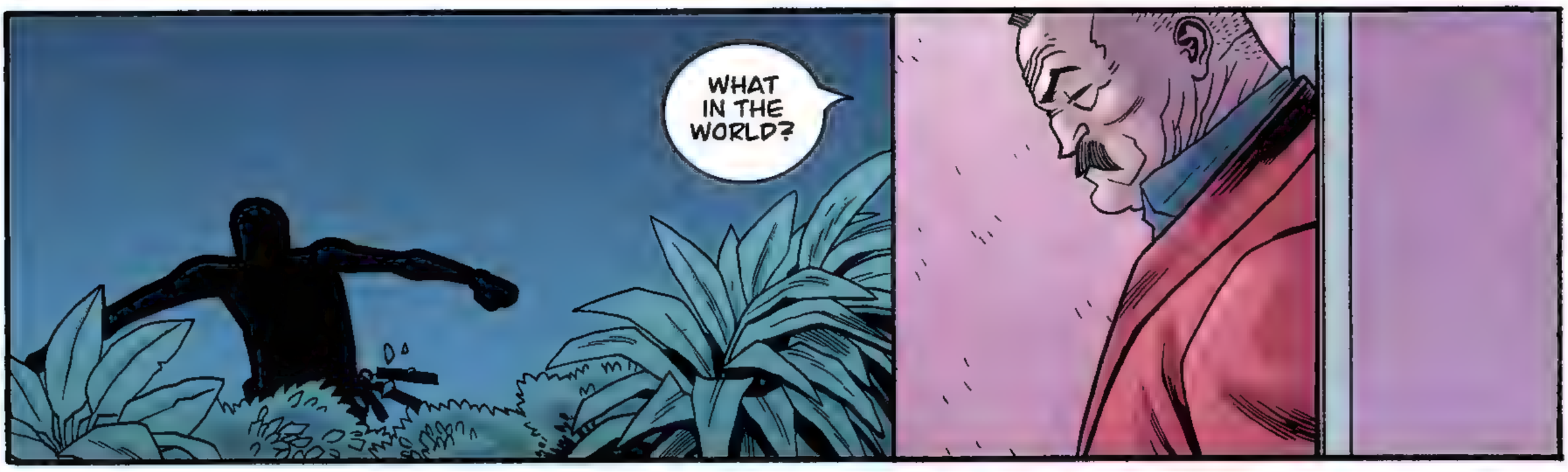
WELL-- THE WORLD IS *STARVING*, REXY BOY.

AND THESE PEOPLE ARE JUST CUP NOODLES.




URGENT


DING DONG!


WHAT IN THE WORLD?


I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THE POST OFFICE DELIVERED THIS LATE.


NOVELTY BASEBALL?


WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH A GLOWING BASEBALL? I DON'T EVEN LIKE BASEB--

KRAKOOOM!

HEH.

HEH.

REX, YOU'VE DONE SUCH A *FANTASTIC* JOB ON THESE MISSIONS, I WANTED TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING SPECIAL.

SOMETHING *SPECIAL?* YOU'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE THAT BEFORE.

WELL, IT'S NOT JUST FOR THE MISSIONS. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, REXY BOY.

OH MY GOD!

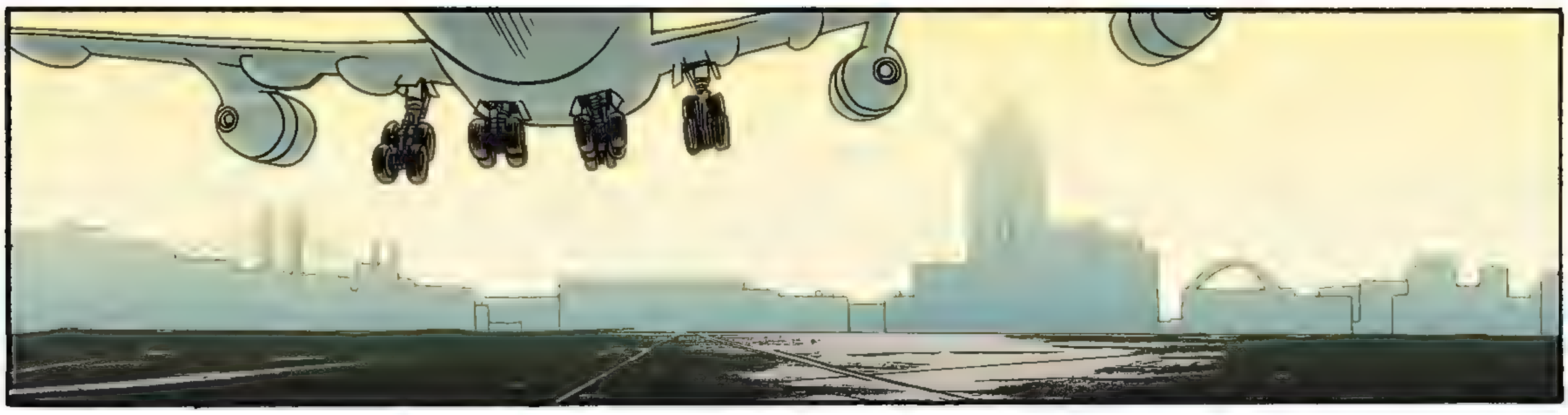
THIS IS *AWESOME!*

AND FOR MY BIRTHDAY?! MY DAD NEVER EVEN *REMEMBERED* MY BIRTHDAY!

REX...

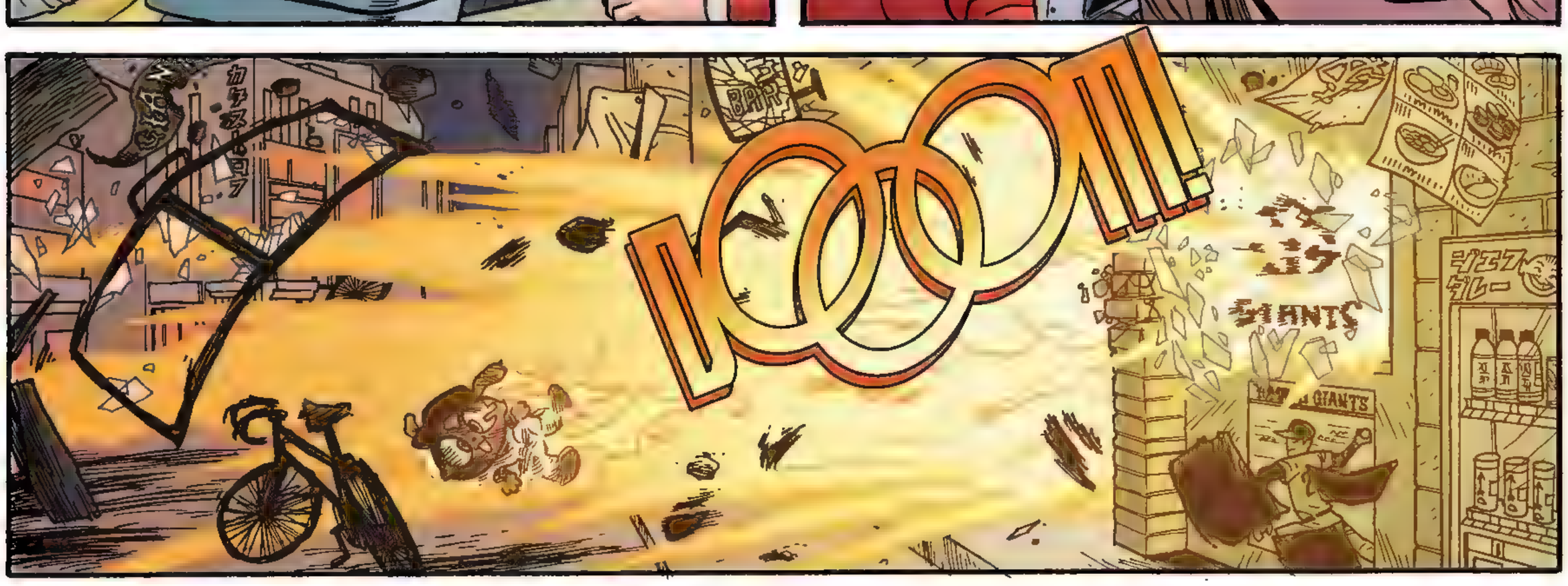
YOUR FATHER WAS A MAN WHO SOLD HIS SON FOR A STEAK DINNER.

BELIEVE ME, REXY BOY. YOU'RE WHERE YOU BELONG.




WELCOME TO JAPAN, MR. RADCLIFFE! I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF I HAVE A QUICK LOOK THROUGH YOUR BAG!
EASTPAK & DOWN
NOT AT ALL. GO RIGHT AHEAD.
OH! ARE YOU A BIG SPORTS FAN, MISTER RADCLIFFE?
DARE MASTER


OH, YES. I SUPPORT THE HANSHIN TIGERS.
OH! YOU SHOULD BE VERY CAREFUL WHERE YOU SAY THAT! SOME VERY INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE SUPPORT THE YOMIURI GIANTS!
I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND.
DARE MASTER


BOOM!!!
GIANTS

SPLOGG!

KHOOM!

GOOM!

WROKK!

HURRY! GET MR. STAGG INTO THE ELEVATOR!

KRAK!

SPUTT!

SHUKK!

KRAKK!

KHOOM!

ELEVATOR-- EXCELLENT CHOICE.

JUST BRILLIANT.

BRA-KOOM!

OH, REXY BABY. NOTHING'S GOING TO STOP US NOW.

ARE YOU SERIOUS?

I'M NOT USUALLY ONE TO JOKE ABOUT BLACK OPS, REX.

YEAH, BUT THE PENTAGON? I'M PRETTY SURE THEY KEEP GOVERNMENT THERE. I THOUGHT WE WERE GOVERNMENT.

LET ME ASSURE YOU, REX, THAT WHILE THIS GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY WAS ONCE FULLY ON THE SIDE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THESE UNITED STATES--I USED TO RUN IT, IN FACT--THE CURRENT DIRECTOR, MY FORMER PROTEGE, HAS GONE QUITE...ROGUE. COMPLETELY OVER THE BEND.

HE NEEDS STOPPING.

OKAY, I BELIEVE YOU. BUT,THIS DOESN'T HAVE HIS NAME, JUST AN ADDRESS. HOW CAN I TARGET SOMEONE I CAN'T RECOGNIZE?

OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT, REX. EVEN THOUGH THE DIRECTOR IS THE TARGET--

--I WANT YOU TO TAKE OUT THE WHOLE DAMN PLACE.

NOW, REST UP, REXY BOY. IT'S A BIG MISSION TOMORROW.

THE PENTAGON?

THE GOOD GUYS BLOW UP THE PENTAGON NOW?

LANGALANGALAI

WHAT THE HELL?

TAE KWON DO

HOT COFF

ALANGALANGLANGALANGALANGALANGALAN

G. BANK

BA-BOOOSH!

HOLY CRAP!!

...NOTHING...

CAN KILL...

THE CANNON....

DUDE, ARE YOU OKAY?

HEY!

WHOA!

WHOA!

YOU'RE GOING TO HIT ME WITH A ROCK?

THAT'S NO WAY TO TREAT A LADY-- ESPECIALLY ONE *THIS* CUTE.



ATOM EVE & REX SPLODE #2

OKAY, WAIT! UM...

HOT COFFEE

SHOP-E-MA

WE SELL FOOD

THAT GUY--HE WAS ROBBING THE BANK, *RIGHT?*

GOT IT IN ONE, NANCY DREW.

SO HE'S A *VILLAIN.* A *SUPER-VILLAIN.*

LUCKY

YEEEAH.

TOTALLY DID.

AND YOU STOPPED HIM. WITH *SUPER POWERS.*

YOU'RE A *SUPERHERO.*

TOTALLY AM. *ATOM EVE* AT YOUR SERVICE, CITIZEN.

OH MY GOD. OKAY, YEAH. OH MY GOD. I THINK I NEED YOUR HELP.

WHAT? *REALLY?* WITH *WHAT?*

OKAY, WELL-- LET ME JUST--

KILL YOU!

FWOOSH

LOOK OUT!

ULP!

FWOMP!

DUDE, RUN! GET TO SAFETY!

MAN, ARE YOU EVEN SERIOUS?

I'VE GOT A FRONT ROW SEAT TO AWESOME HERE!

I'M SICK OF THIS! I'M TAKING YOU OUT ONCE AND FOR ALL!

COME ON, KILLCANNON, CLEARLY THE CANNON THING ISN'T WORKING OUT FOR YOU. YOU COULD BE KILLMACHETE. OR, OOH! KILLCATAPULT!

KRAKKAM!

GRAH!

THAT WAS JUST A PEBBLE. YOU SHOULD SEE THE WHOLE BRICK.

I'LL KILL YOU, TOO!

OOF!

FUDD!

KHOOM!

GOTCHA!

IF YOU THINK THIS THING WAS EXPLOSIVE BEFORE--!

--JUST YOU WAIT!

KRAKO-BO-GOOM!

THUD!

YIKES. THIS DUDE JUST TOTALLY VOMITED ALL OVER HIMSELF.

BOOYAH!

GREAT WOR--!

WHOA-- I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE THAT.

GROSS.

NOW. YOU SAID YOU NEEDED MY HELP. ARE YOU *SURE?* IT LOOKS LIKE YOU DO PRETTY WELL HANDLING YOURSELF... STRANGER.

HUH? OH! OH YEAH.

I GUESS I DON'T NEED THIS ANYMORE.

MY NAME IS REX. REX SLOAN. I NEED SOME ADVICE.

GOOD TO MEET YOU, REX SLOAN. TELL ME HOW I CAN HELP.

OKAY, SO, THERE'S THIS GUY. HE'S KIND OF LIKE MY BOSS, KIND OF LIKE MY DAD... *UGH*. HE'S THE ONE WHO GAVE ME THESE POWERS. TOLD ME HE'D HELP ME USE THEM FOR GOOD. TOLD ME HE WORKED FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

BUT I'M WORRIED THAT... WELL, THAT MAYBE HE'S A BAD GUY. SOME OF THE MISSIONS HE'S SENT ME ON...THEY JUST DON'T FEEL RIGHT. I THOUGHT I WAS A GOVERNMENT AGENT, BUT MY NEXT MISSION IS ELIMINATING A TARGET INSIDE *THE PENTAGON*-- GOD, I THINK I MIGHT BE A HITMAN. WHICH ISN'T NEARLY AS COOL AS IT SOUNDS.

BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY GOVERNMENT PEOPLE AND BAD PEOPLE AREN'T MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE. BUT, YOU KILL PEOPLE... FOR MONEY? YOU'RE A BAD GUY? IS *THAT* WHAT YOU'RE TELLING ME?

NO--NOT AT ALL. I'M A GOOD GUY TRICKED INTO DOING BAD THINGS--I THINK. IF I DO THIS MISSION, I MIGHT HURT AN INNOCENT PERSON. IF I DON'T, AND HE'S EVIL, WHAT IF HE HURTS ME? THE PENTAGON--

THAT'S JUST A HUGE RED FLAG TO ME, SEEMS LIKE SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT...

...AND I DON'T EVEN HAVE A PLACE TO *GO!* I LIVE WITH THIS GUY IN HIS GIANT DEATH FACTORY! I JUST... NEED A PLACE TO THINK, YOU KNOW?

WELL, I'VE GOT A--A, UH, JEEZ.

I'VE GOT A PLACE... I GUESS.

WHAT? *REALLY?*

WELL, OKAY, IT'S KIND OF MY PARENTS' HOUSE...

TO BE HONEST.

HAH! AND YOU WANT TO SNEAK A STRANGE BOY--A DANGEROUS ONE LIKE ME, EVEN-- INTO YOUR BEDROOM? WON'T THEY BE *PISSED* IF THEY CATCH US?

HEH... YEAH. I IMAGINE THEY REALLY, *REALLY* WOULD. THIS IS GETTING BETTER BY THE MINUTE. WE BETTER GET A MOVE ON, THEN.

YOU'RE MY KIND OF GIRL, RED. ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE SURE ABOUT THIS?

TOTALLY. LET'S JUST TAKE CARE OF THIS GUY FIRST.

HEY-- YOU TOTALLY TOOK THIS GUY DOWN. HE'S OUT COLD. ARE YOU SURE *YOU'RE* NOT A SUPERHERO?

HONESTLY...

I USED TO THINK I *WAS.*

THE SUBURBAN HOME OF SAMANTHA EVE WILKINS AND HER FAMILY.

YEAH, I MEAN, I'M PRETTY SURE THEY KNOW I'M A SUPERHERO BY NOW. BUT MOSTLY I TRY TO KEEP THEM FROM BRINGING IT UP, YOU KNOW? STUFF IS AWKWARD ENOUGH WITH THEM.

I MEAN, PARENTS, RIGHT? CRAZY.

UH, YEAH. I GUESS I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

LOOK, WE SHOULD GO AHEAD AND GET DRESSED FOR BED.

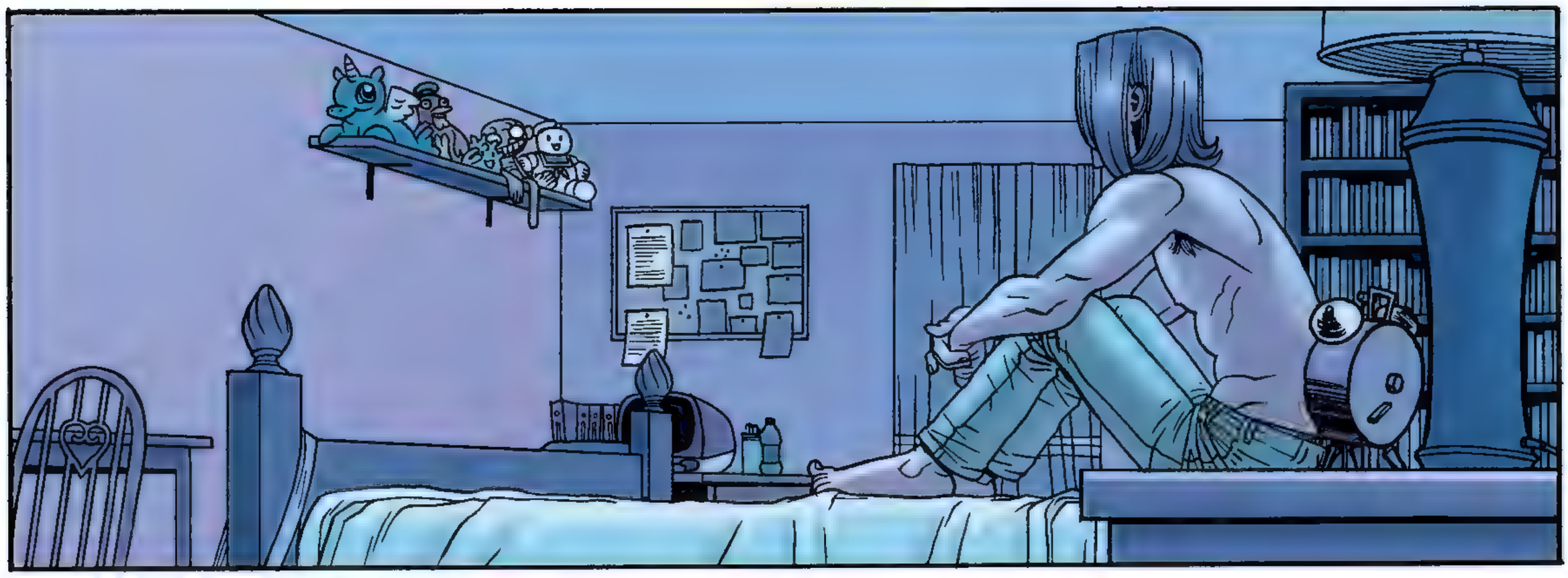
I'M TOTALLY COOL WITH YOU SLEEPING HERE WHILE YOU WORK THINGS OUT--I JUST CAN'T BE STAYING UP ALL NIGHT, Y'KNOW? I'VE GOT THINGS TO DO TOMORROW. THINGS CALLED SCHOOL.

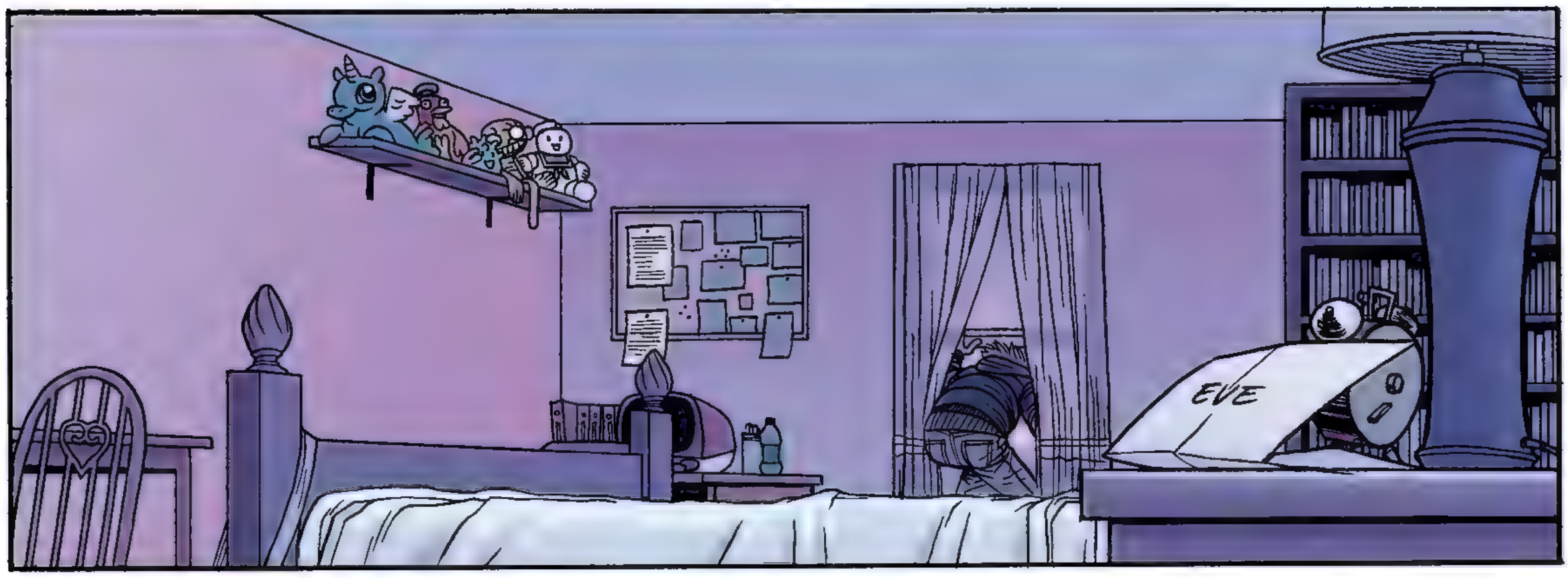
PROBABLY NOT A BAD IDEA FOR YOU TO GET SOME SLEEP, EITHER. I HATE TO SAY IT, YOU KNOW, BUT YOU'VE GOT A BIG DECISION AHEAD OF YOU TOMORROW. MAYBE THE BIGGEST OF YOUR LIFE.

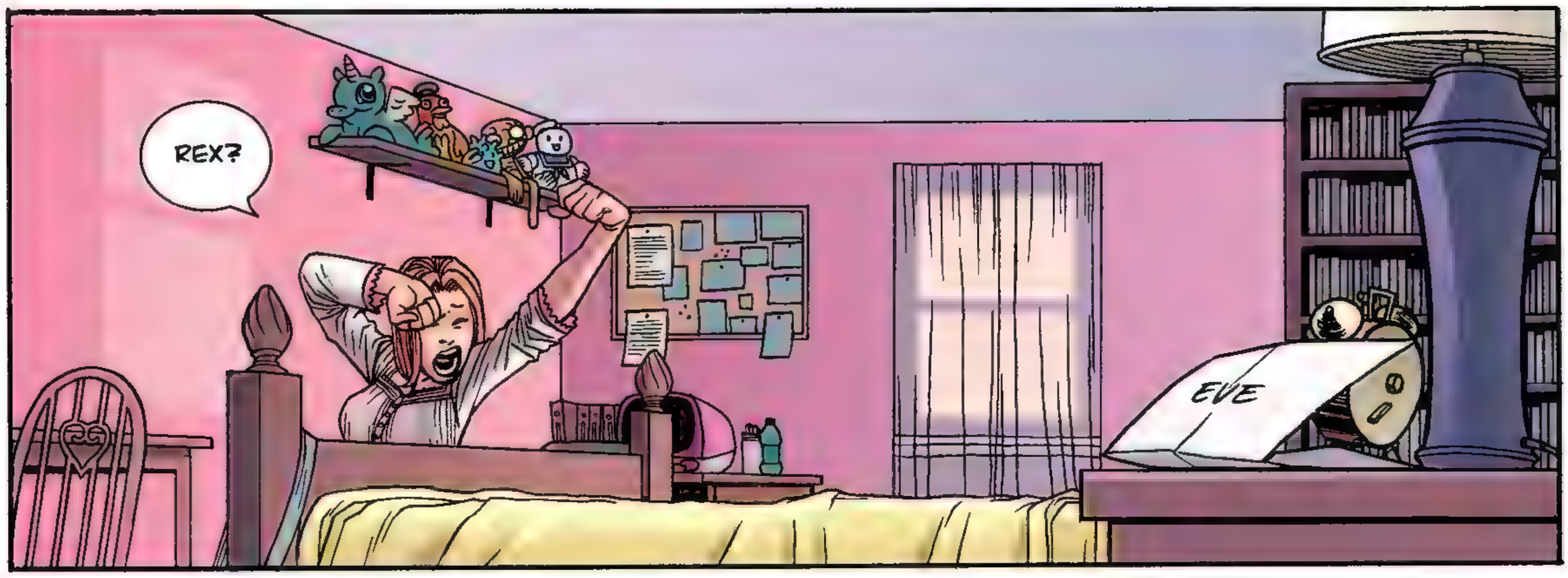
HOPPER

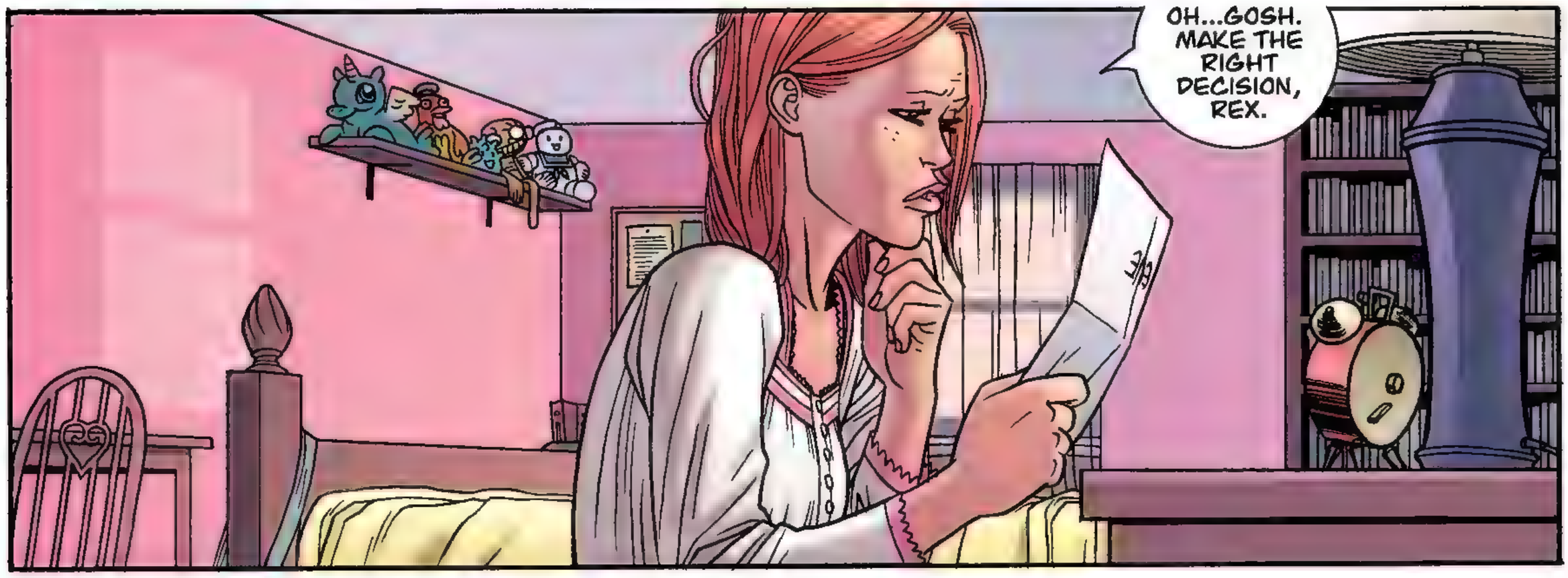
WORLD HISTORY
ECONOMICS
BIOLOGY

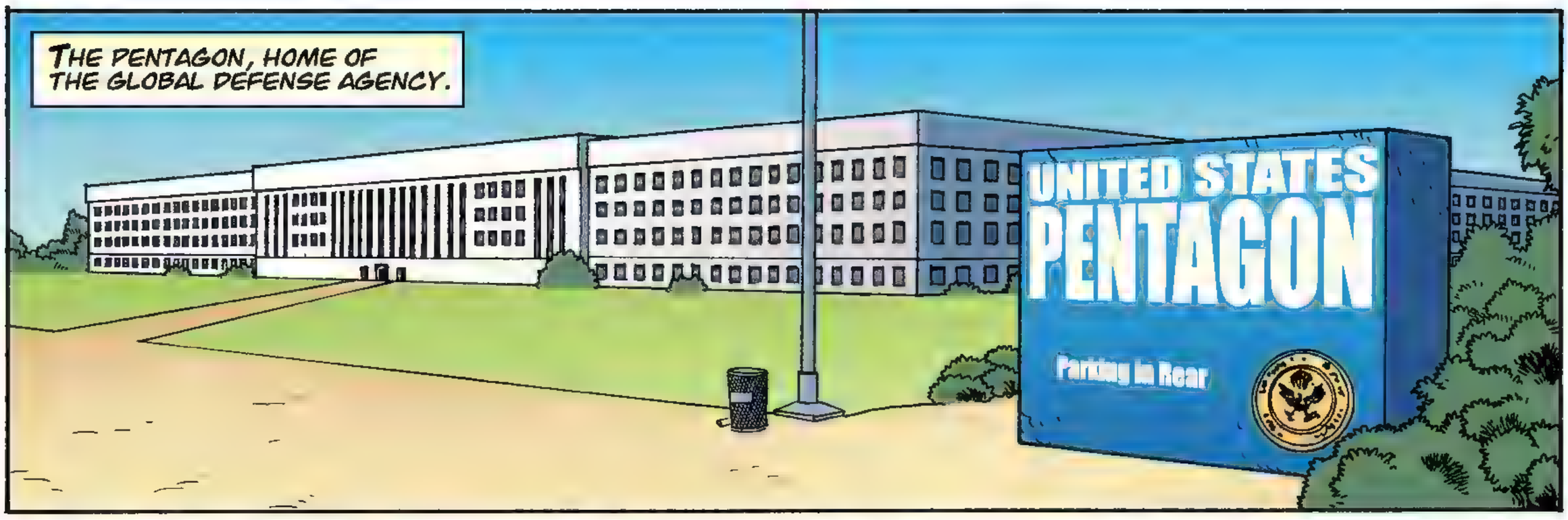
YEAH. PRETTY BIG.

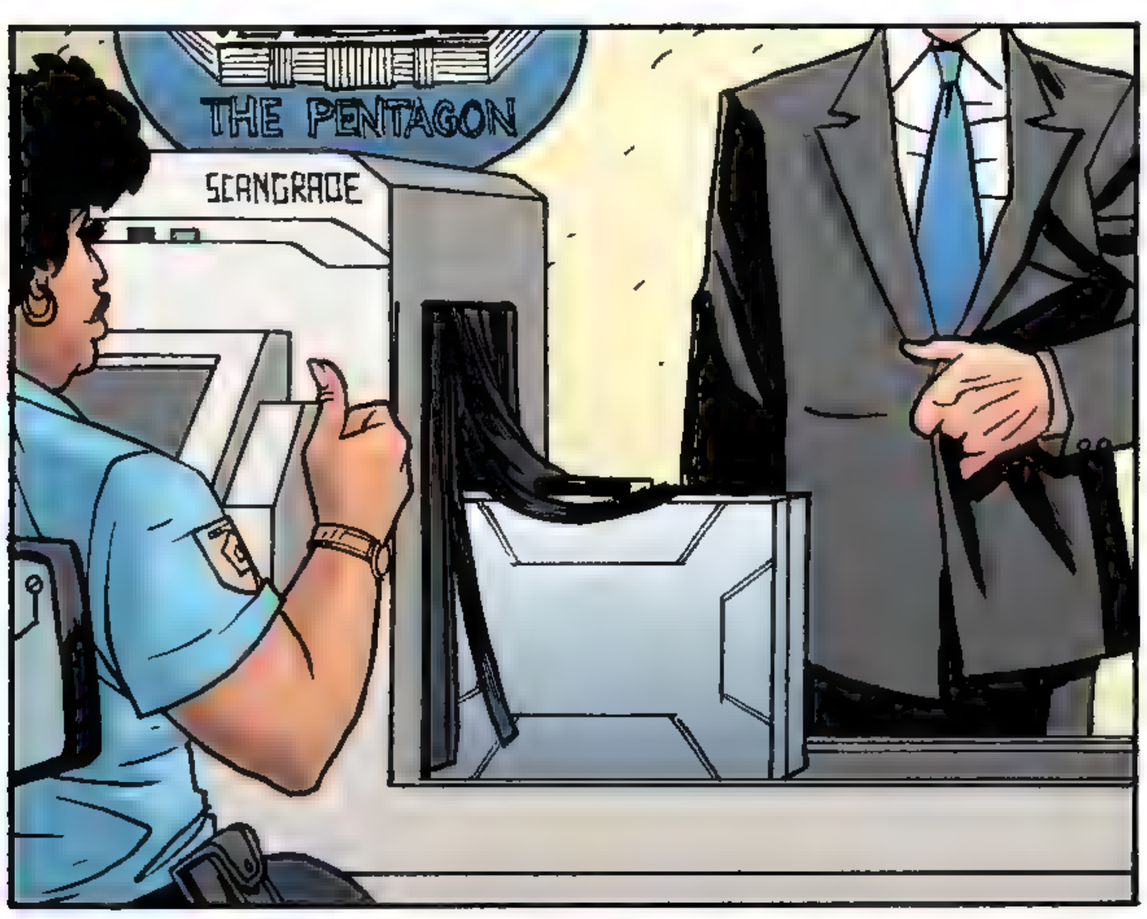



EVE

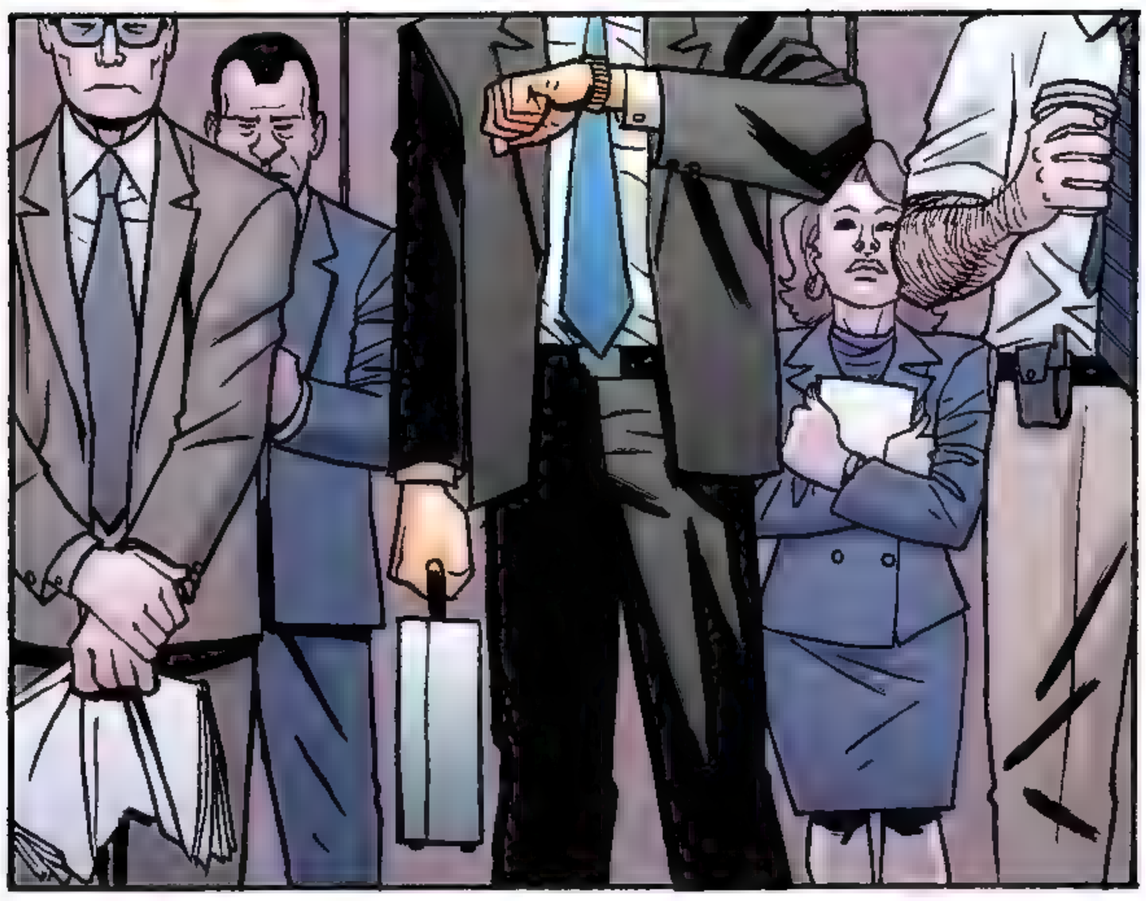

REX?
EVE

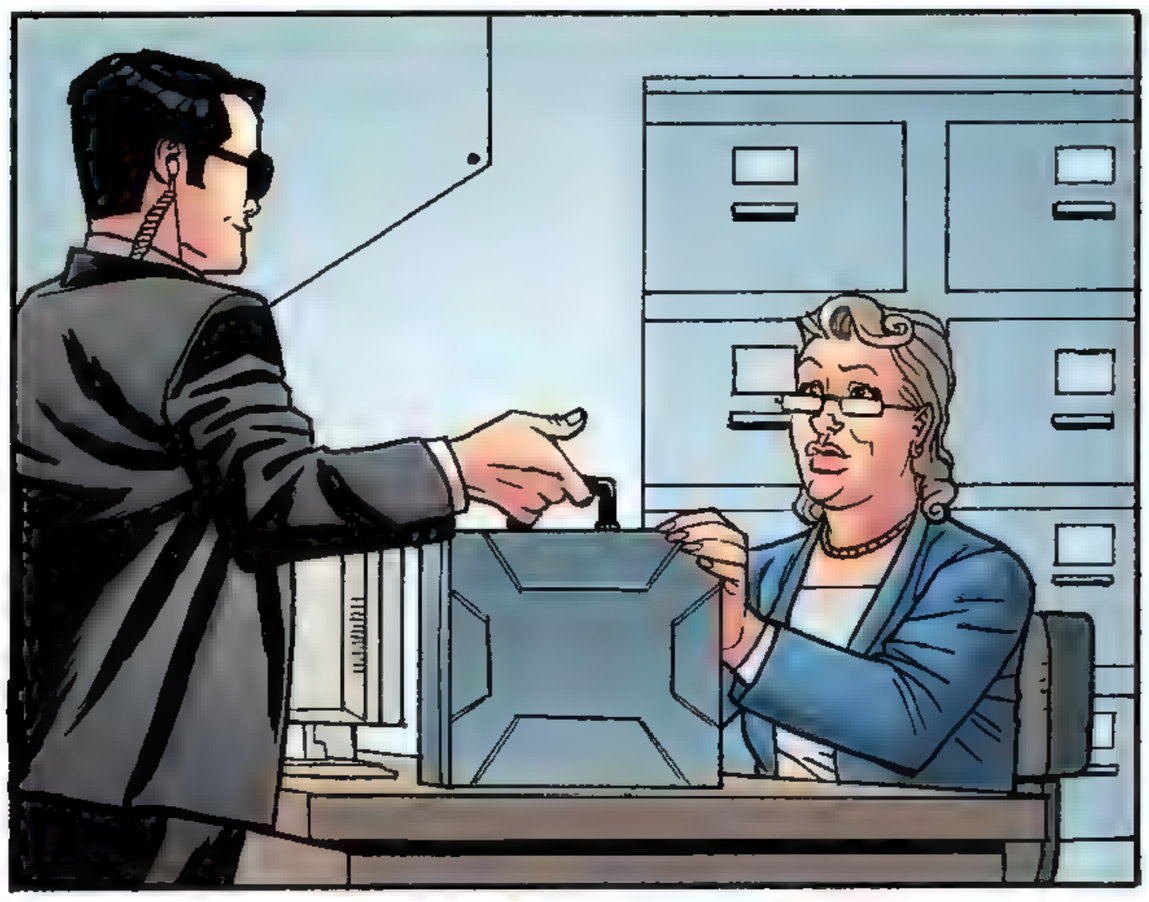

OH...GOSH. MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION, REX.
3/13


THE PENTAGON, HOME OF THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY.
UNITED STATES PENTAGON
Parking In Rear


THE PENTAGON
SCANGRADE










I DON'T KNOW
WHO YOU ARE
BUT I JUST SAVED
YOUR LIFE.

AFTERHOON, [illegible]

FFE WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU IN HI

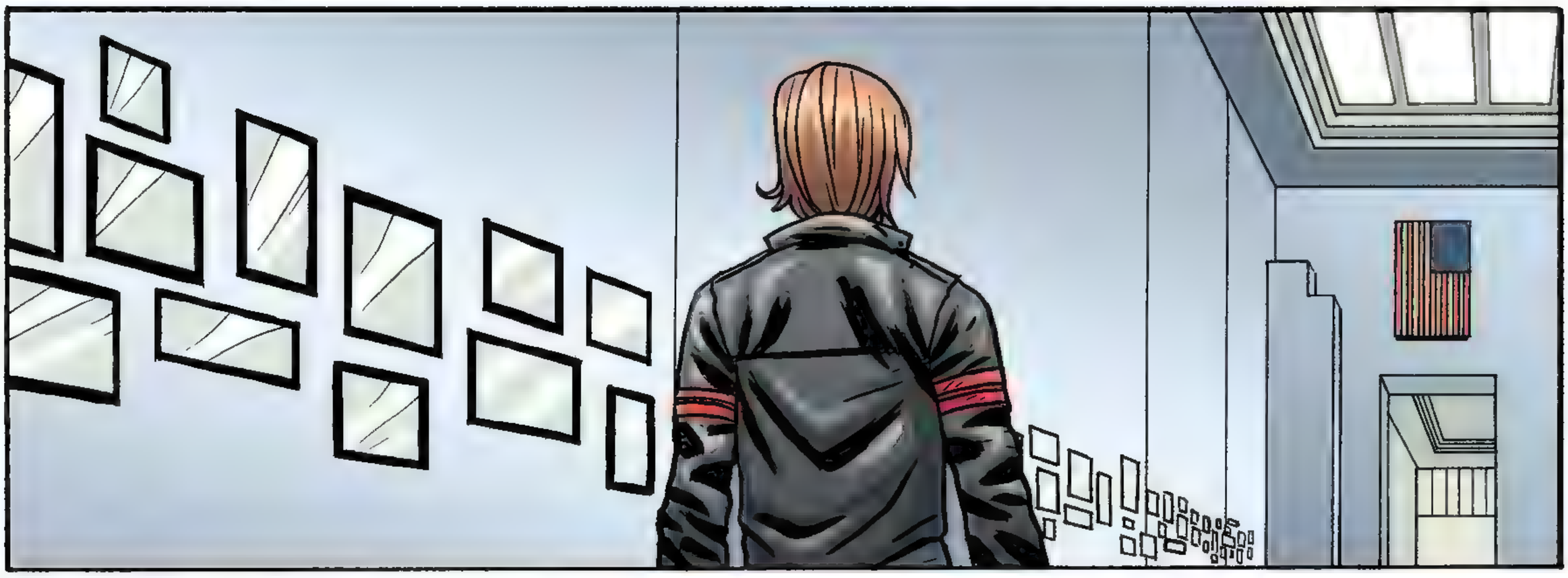
ROOM... YOU WERE A GOOD ROOM.

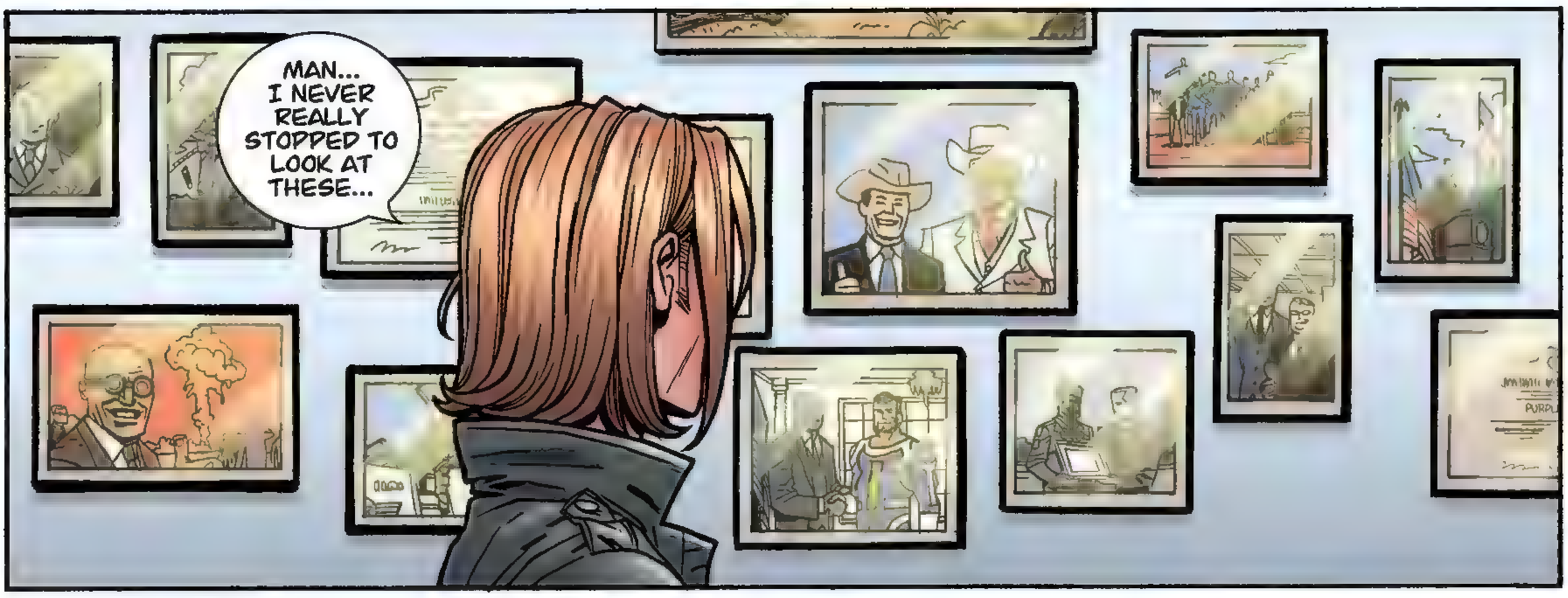
BEST ROOM I'VE EVER HAD. BEST ROOM I'M LIKELY TO HAVE FOR A WHILE.

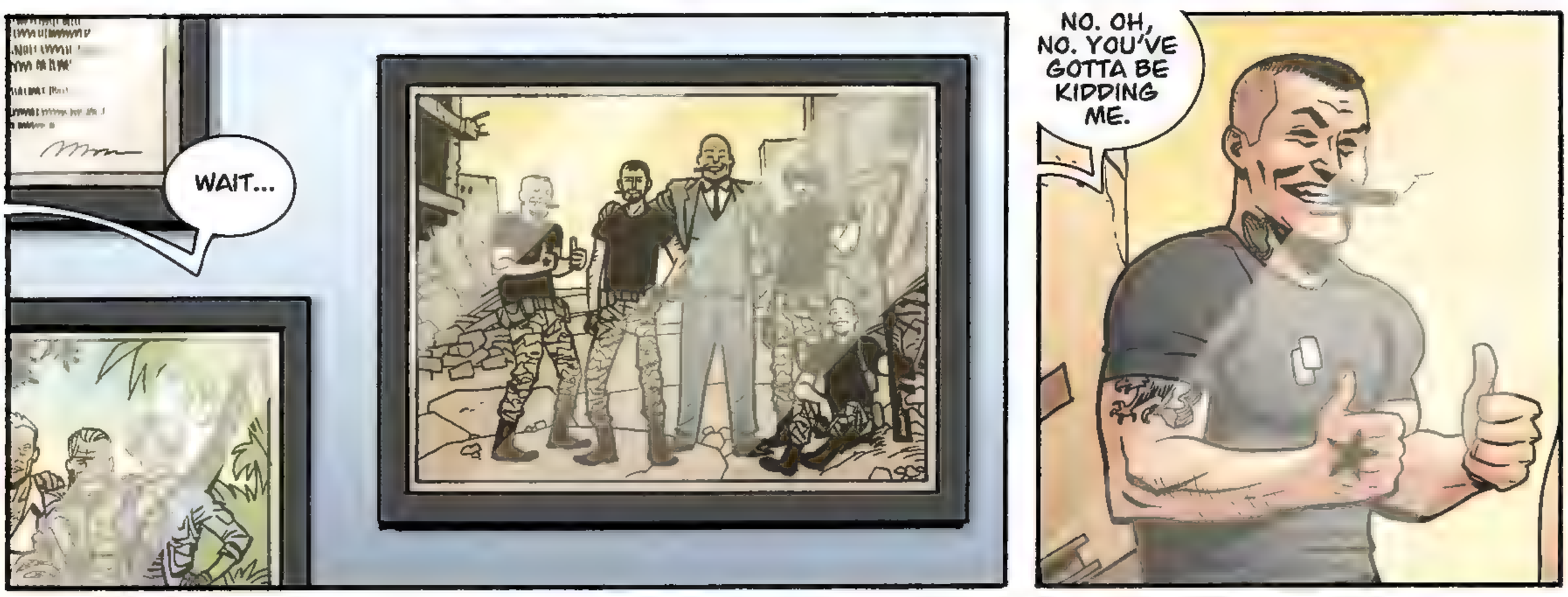
NOT AS GOOD AS EVE'S ROOM.

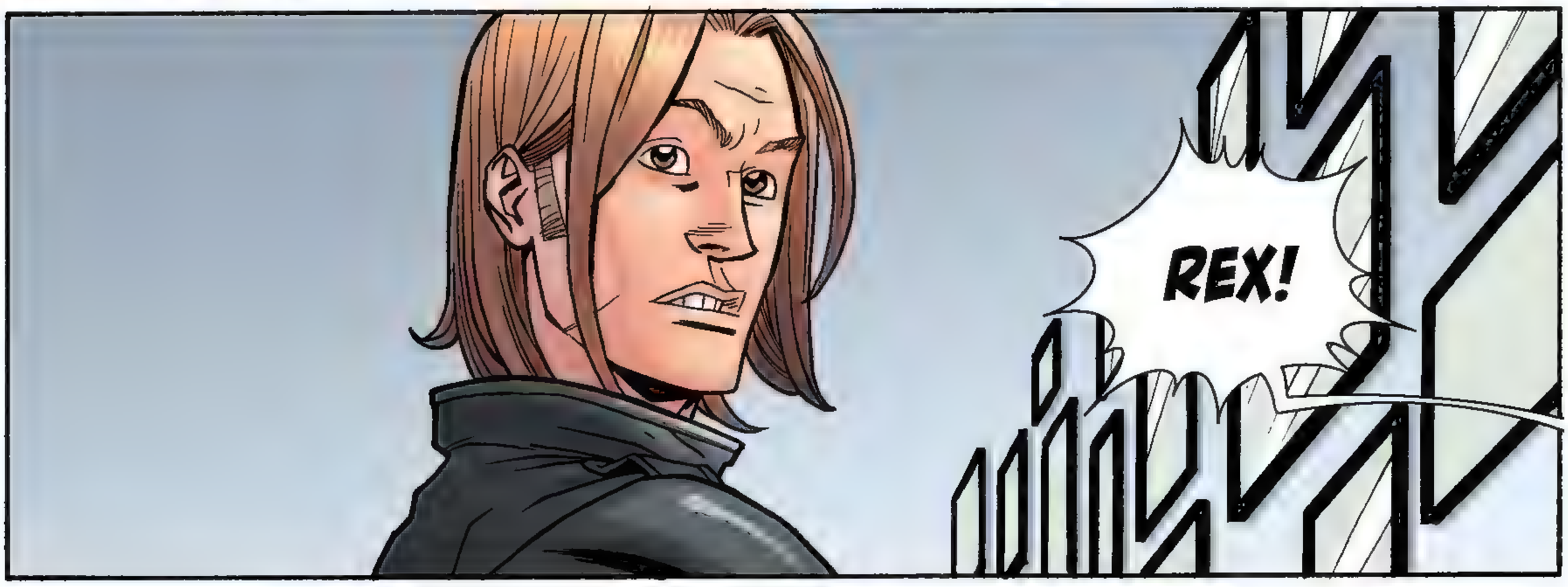
YOU SON OF A BITCH.

DAD...




MAN... I NEVER REALLY STOPPED TO LOOK AT THESE...


WAIT...
NO. OH, NO. YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME.


REX!

GOOD MORNING, MR. RADCLIFFE. WHAT'S THIS PICTURE?

WHAT, THIS? THAT'S JUST ME AND SOME SOLDIERS WHO DID SOME SPECIAL OPS WITH ME BACK IN THE EIGHTIES.

WHY? WERE YOU *EXPECTING* ONE?

I DARE SAY A DEADLY EXPLOSION AT *THE PENTAGON* WOULD WARRANT SOME COVERAGE.

YEAH, OKAY, BUT IS THIS GUY MY--

REX. I'M SAD TO SAY I HAVEN'T HEARD ANY SPECIAL EMERGENCY BULLETINS ON THE NEWS TODAY.

WELL... MAYBE THEY'RE COVERING IT UP.

COVERING IT UP?

COVERING IT UP?!

WRAMM!

HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO ME, REX?

ME?! YOU'RE A LIAR!

I GAVE YOU EVERYTHING!

A HOME! FOOD! A JOB! MONEY!

STOP THIS! YOU KNOW YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO HURT ME! YOU MADE *SURE* OF THAT!

HAH! AND THAT'S THE OTHER THING I GAVE YOU! THE MOST IMPORTANT THING!

POWER!

I GAVE YOU POWER, AND I ONLY ASKED FOR ONE THING-- LOYALTY! BLIND, UNWAVERING *LOYALTY!* THAT'S NOT SO MUCH, YOU CHILD!

AND WHAT DO I GET? A SLAP IN THE FACE? YOU'RE GOING TO STRANGLE ME?! ALL THESE YEARS, AND YOU'RE JUST AN UNGRATEFUL JACKA--!

IRK!

S-- STOP...

TTT.

WHAT... WHAT HAVE YOU...

WAIT! NO, DON'T *TOUCH--*

TKK.

SPLAKK!!

NO...

WHUMP!

I DIDN'T MEAN...I DIDN'T MEAN IT!

OH, GOD, I'M SO SORRY.

UNNH!

HOOM!!

CHK.

HMM?

EVE? CAN I COME IN?

GOD, REX! YES! GET IN HERE BEFORE MY PARENTS SEE YOU!

I MESSED UP, EVE. I REALLY MESSED UP.

GOD, WHAT HAPPENED? YOU'RE A *WRECK!*

I WENT TO TELL HIM I WAS LEAVING, AND... I--I DIDN'T MEAN TO. HE TRIED TO KILL ME, AND IT WAS AN *ACCIDENT.*

...OH. OH, GOD.

AN--AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS DOING. I *PANICKED.* I WANTED TO RUN, TO JUST GET OUT OF THERE, BUT... I WAS AFRAID.

I BLEW UP THE HOUSE.

THE WHOLE HOUSE? THE WHOLE FACILITY?

WHAT? I DON'T KNOW-- MOST OF IT?

OKAY, WE HAVE TO ASSUME YOU DIDN'T BLOW UP THE WHOLE PLACE, AND THAT'S BAD.

WHY? I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

YOU SAID THIS RADCLIFFE HAD A WHOLE FACILITY FULL OF RESEARCH ON DEVELOPING SUPER-SOLDIERS. NOTES, AUTOMATED SCIENTISTS, HARD DRIVES FULL OF THE STUFF. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, THE WHOLE THING.

YEAH, SO?

WHO DO YOU THINK IS GOING TO INVESTIGATE AN EXPLOSION AT THE HOUSE OF A MAN LIKE RADCLIFFE? WHO DO YOU THINK IS GOING TO HARVEST THAT LEFTOVER RESEARCH?

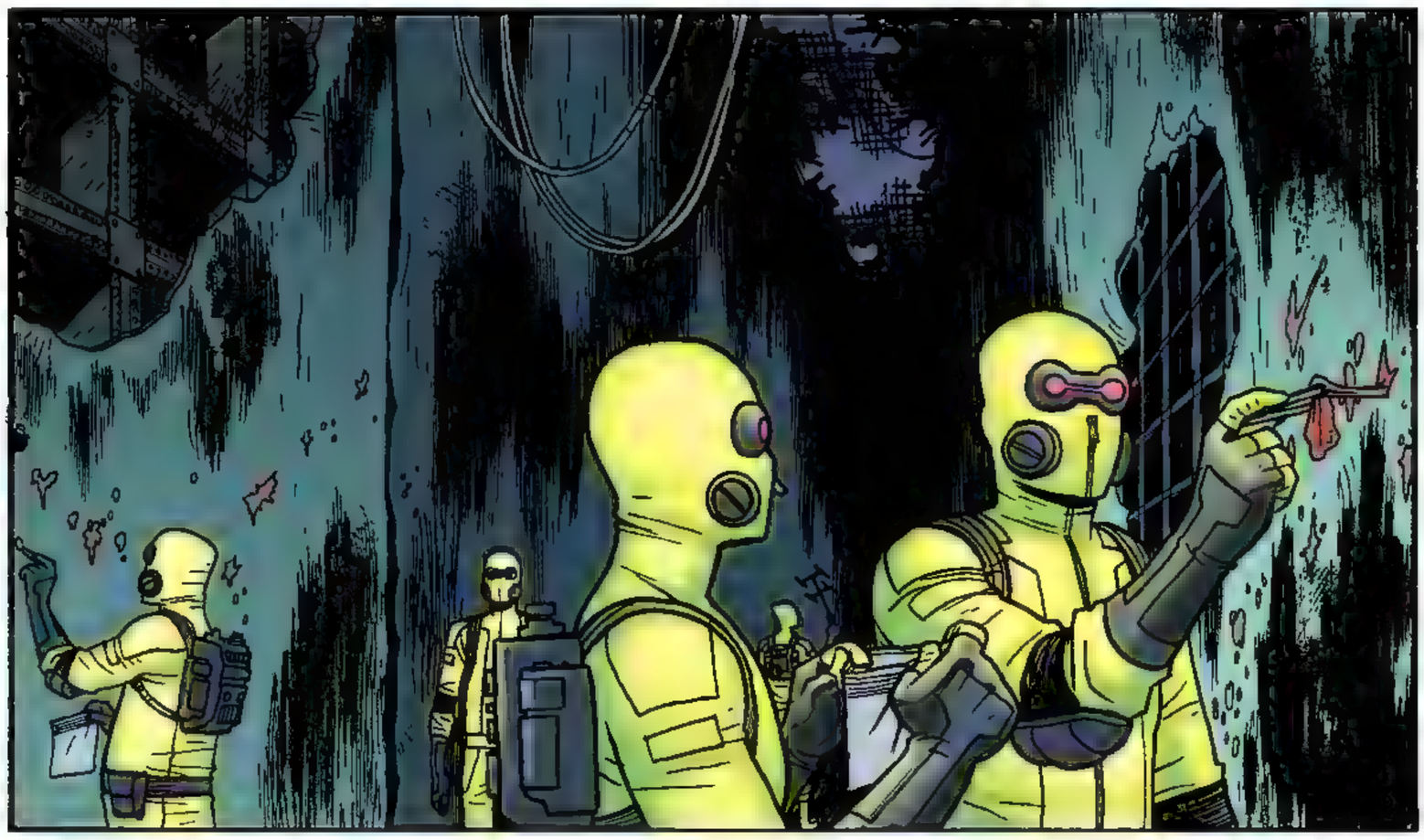
I DON'T KNOW! THE GOVERNMENT?

YES! GOD!

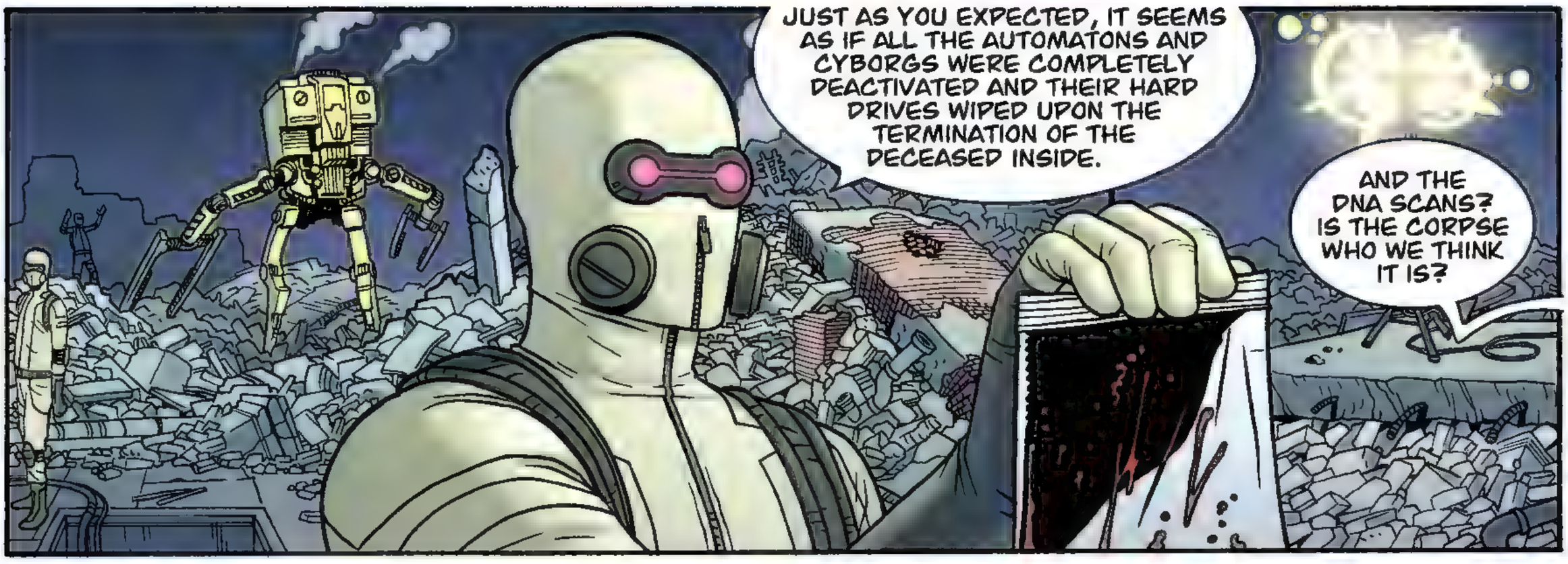
SO WHAT? THIS IS GOOD NEWS, RIGHT? I THOUGHT IT BELONGED TO THE GOVERNMENT ALL ALONG, AND NOW THEY'LL REALLY HAVE IT! I MEAN, SO WHAT? WHAT'S SO TERRIBLE?

THERE ARE BAD MEN WORKING IN THE GOVERNMENT-- I KNOW--I'VE DEALT WITH THEM. OH, GOD, REX. YOU HAVE NO IDEA.



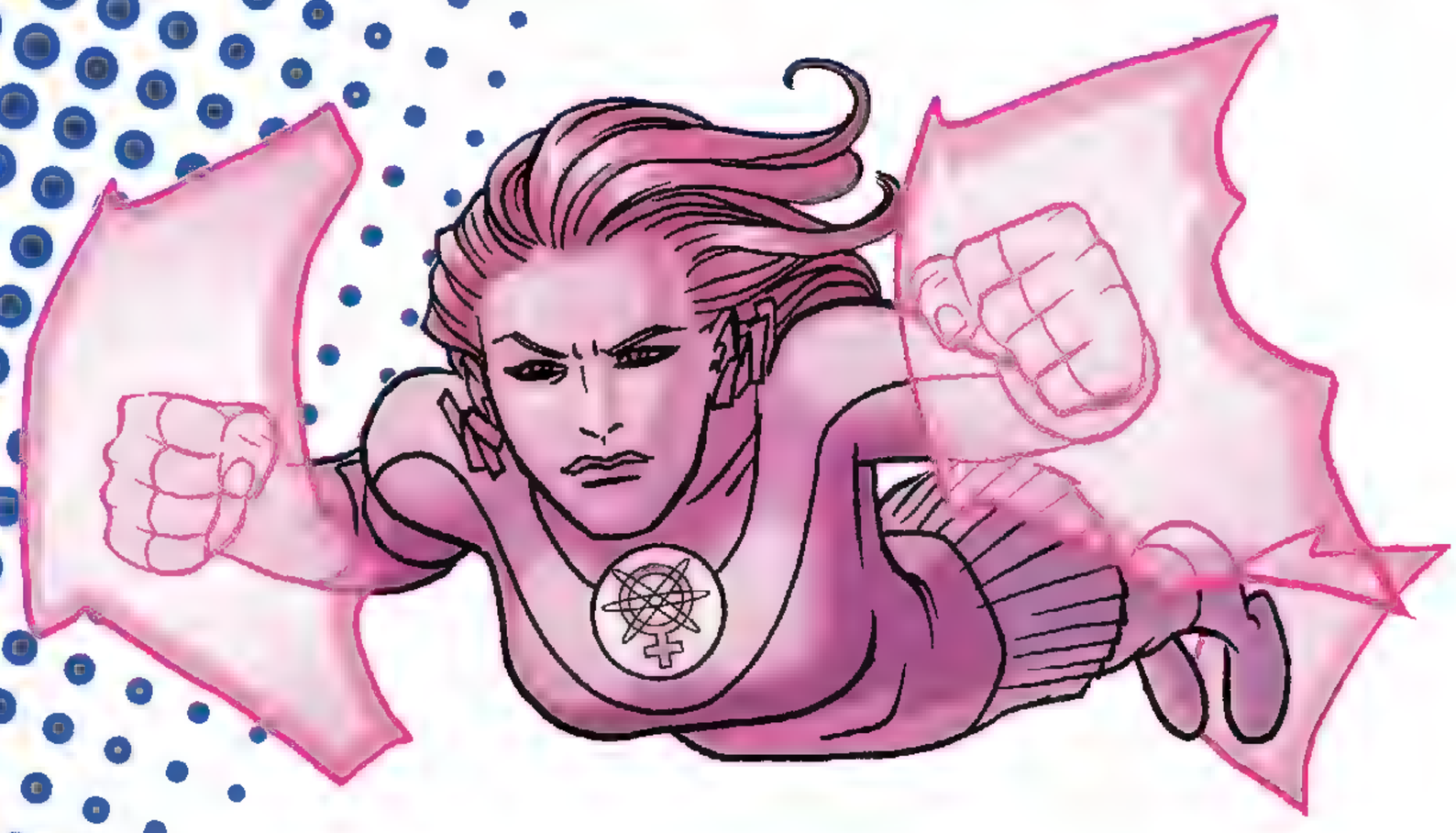





JUST AS YOU EXPECTED, IT SEEMS AS IF ALL THE AUTOMATONS AND CYBORGS WERE COMPLETELY DEACTIVATED AND THEIR HARD DRIVES WIPED UPON THE TERMINATION OF THE DECEASED INSIDE.
AND THE DNA SCANS? IS THE CORPSE WHO WE THINK IT IS?

PRELIMINARY SCANS SEEM TO INDICATE THAT IT'S RADCLIFFE, JUST AS YOU THOUGHT, MISTER ERICKSON.

OUTSTANDING.



ATOM EVE & REX SPLODE #3



ABOUT LIKE I EXPECTED. THEY BEAT US TO IT.

AW, IT CAN'T BE THAT BAD, I'M SURE. THIS IS NOTHING I HAVEN'T DONE BEFORE A *MILLION* TIMES.

YEAH, IT'S ONLY LIKE A DOZEN GUYS. NO BIG.

CHECK FOR YOURSELF.

WHAT--?! ***NO!***

WHAT? WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

REMEMBER WHEN I SAID THAT IT MIGHT BE MUCH WORSE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO FIND THIS STUFF THAN FOR RADCLIFFE TO HAVE KEPT IT?

UH, SURE, YEAH.

THAT IS THE GUY I WAS THINKING ABOUT WHEN I SAID THAT.

LOOK, IF HE SEES YOU, YOUR LIFE IS RUINED--

--YOU NEED A *COSTUME.*

HOLY--! IF YOU WANTED IN MY PANTS, YOU SHOULDA JUST SAID!

REX, I'M *SERIOUS!* BE STEALTHY ABOUT THIS!

LOOK, I TOLD YOU. I'VE DONE THIS A MILLION TIMES.

BOOM!

WHAT?

WHAT IN THE NAME OF HELL WAS *THAT?*

GET OUT THERE AND FIND WHO DID THAT, *ALL OF YOU!*

CHK. CHK. CHK. CHK.

USA

RODGERS, I'M GOING TO NEED MY SIDEARM.

WAIT.

CHOOM! GOOM!

SUPER-HEROES.

GET ME MY *BIG* SIDEARM.

BUDDA! BUDDA! BUDDA!

IF IT'S WEARING A COSTUME, MAKE IT BLEED!

HAHAHA HAHAHAHA HAHAHA HAH!

SPAK! SPAK! SPAK!

HOLY HECK!

WHOOP!

I'LL DRAW THEIR FIRE! YOU JUST GO AND FINISH THIS OFF!

CHECK!

NNGH!

OOOFA!

KHOOOM!!

MAN...

THAT WAS YOUR OWN FAULT, DUDE.

AW, DAMMIT.

KABOOM!!!

EVE!

I SWEAR I TOTALLY HAD THIS UNDER CONTROL.

REALLY? THAT WASN'T YOU JUST YELLING FOR HELP?

...NEVERMIND.

GAH! RUN! FALL BACK!

OKAY-- =HUFF= UGH. THERE'S A, THERE'S A THING UNDERGROUND HERE. METER'S NEARBY... UGH.

HEY, THAT BUBBLE YOU MADE BEFORE... CAN YOU MAKE, LIKE, A BIG--?

SLOW DOWN!

ALMOST THERE!

YEAH, I'M ON IT. WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

THEY FOUND US...

SPAK!

OKAY, HERE'S THE PROBLEM. I NEED TO DESTROY THE WHOLE FACILITY, BUT I CAN'T GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO CHARGE THE ACTUAL BUILDING. THESE TROOPS ARE MAKING SURE OF THAT.

THEY'LL ONLY LET ME GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO CHUCK BOMBS TOWARD THE BUILDING, WHICH CAN ONLY BLOW UP A FEW SQUARE YARDS AT A TIME. NOT GOOD ENOUGH.

I CAN'T CHARGE THE FACILITY FROM THIS FAR AWAY, BUT I CAN CHARGE A LENGTH OF MATERIAL AS LONG AS IT'S TOUCHING, RIGHT?

SPAK!

NOW, THERE SHOULD BE A GAS MAIN RUNNING RIGHT BELOW US--

SPAK!

HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY KNOW THIS WILL WORK?

I *TOLD* YOU. I'VE DONE THIS A MILLION TIMES. I JUST NEED TO BE ABLE TO DIG DOWN--

SPAK!

STEP BACK AND LEAVE THAT PART TO ME.

NICE...

HUP!

VERY NICE.

KLIK! KLAK!

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, SON.

SEE THIS HERE BIG GUN?

I DON'T THINK YOU WANT TO DO THAT.

SORRY... DIGGING THAT HOLE BROKE MY CONCENTRATION, ONLY DROPPED THE FORCE FIELD FOR A SECOND...

WHAT'S YOUR NAME, SON?

UH... REX...

SPLODE.

YEAH! REX SPLODE.

I'M SORRY, LITTLE GIRL. DO I ***KNOW*** YOU? DID I INVITE YOU TO TALK? ***MEN*** ARE TALKING NOW. I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN THE TEA PARTY STARTS.

NOW, REX, AS I WAS SAYING. MY NAME IS ERICKSON. STEVEN ERICKSON. I WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT. PERHAPS YOU'VE ***HEARD*** OF US. WE OWN THIS BUILDING YOU'RE TRYING TO DESTROY.

NOW, NORMALLY, WE SEND PEOPLE WHO TRY TO DESTROY GOVERNMENT PROPERTY TO PRISON, WHERE WE SECRETLY KILL THEM. BUT YOU, YOUNG MAN, POSSESS A TALENT THAT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO US. JOIN OUR LITTLE FAMILY, AND I THINK WE CAN OVERLOOK ANY... PAST INDISCRETIONS.

A FAMILY, HUH? SO YOU'D BE, LIKE, WHAT? MY *DAD*?

HAH...SURE, IF YOU WANT TO LOOK AT IT THAT WAY.

LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING, G-MAN! I'VE HAD TWO DADS SO FAR, AND THEY *BOTH* SUCKED! SO YOU, YOUR MOM, AND BIG BROTHER CAN ALL GO SCREW!

I DON'T NEED YOU!

ALL I NEED IS MY GIRLFRIEND!

NO! THE GAS MAIN!

THUKK!

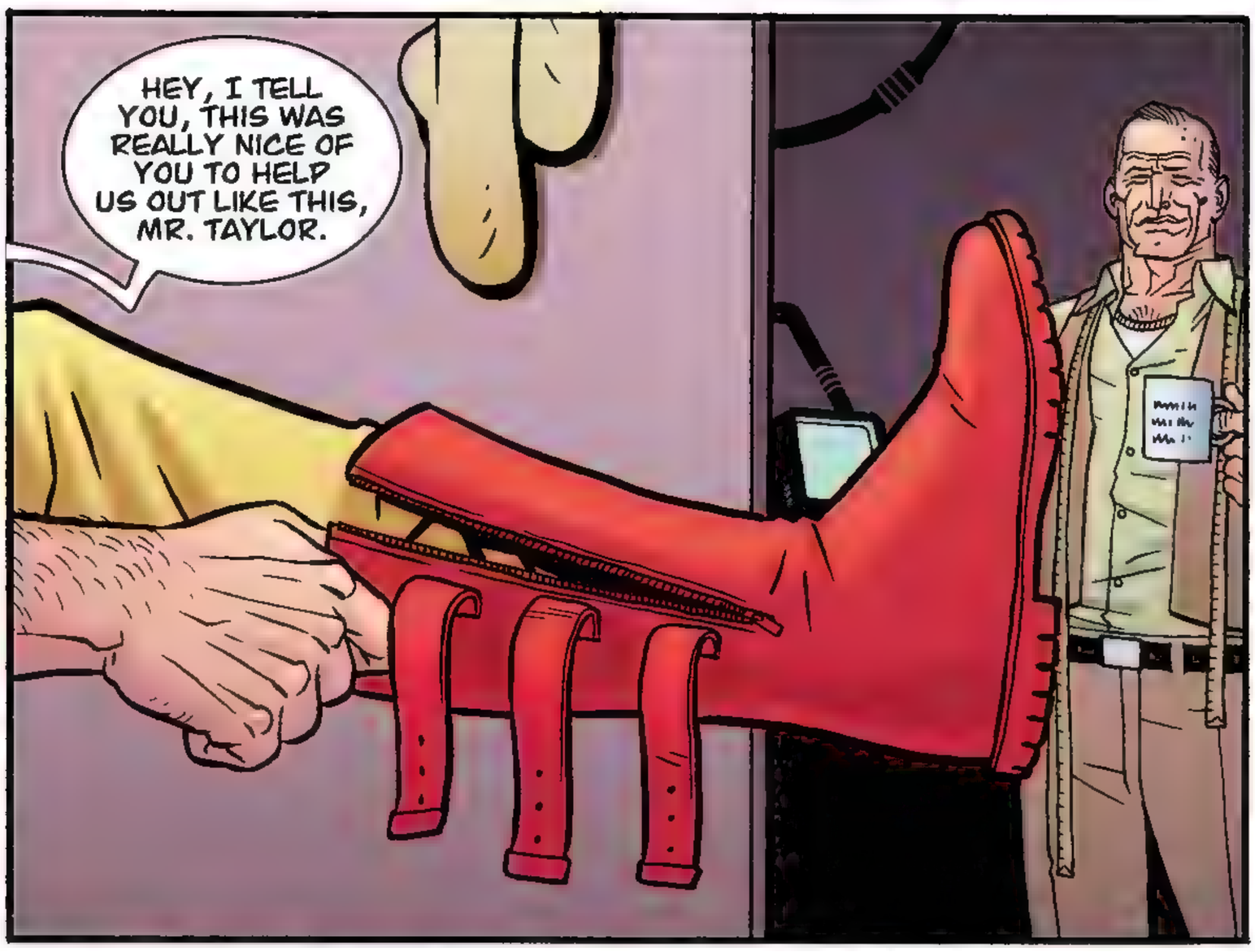
BA-BOOM-CHOOOOOOM

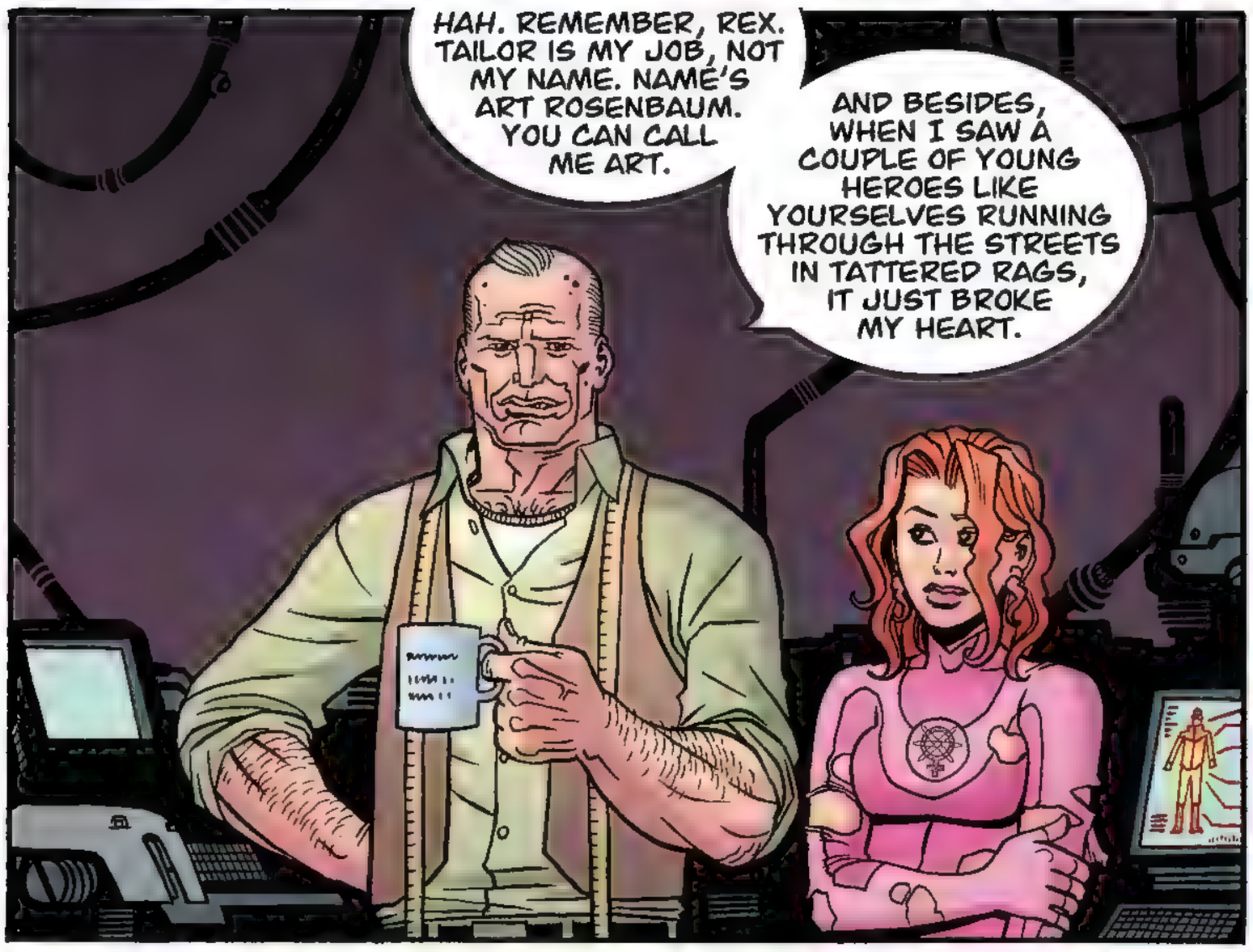
NOOOOOOOOOOOO!

QUICK, YOU IDIOTS! SALVAGE ANYTHING YOU CAN!

COME ON. LET'S GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE BEFORE THEY NOTICE WE'RE GONE.


Shoppe
TAILOR
Shoppe
CUSTOMIZATIONS & ALTERATIONS FOR
Ladies & Gentlemen


HEY, I TELL YOU, THIS WAS REALLY NICE OF YOU TO HELP US OUT LIKE THIS, MR. TAYLOR.


HAH. REMEMBER, REX. TAILOR IS MY JOB, NOT MY NAME. NAME'S ART ROSENBAUM. YOU CAN CALL ME ART.
AND BESIDES, WHEN I SAW A COUPLE OF YOUNG HEROES LIKE YOURSELVES RUNNING THROUGH THE STREETS IN TATTERED RAGS, IT JUST BROKE MY HEART.


I STILL WISH YOU HAD LISTENED TO ME ON THE PANTS LEG, THOUGH. A BIG "REX SPLODE" RIGHT DOWN THE LEG WOULD HAVE JUST BEEN... LIKE, AMAZING.


IT WAS A LITTLE BUSY, REX. NOT TO MENTION GAUDY. VERY '90S.
IT WAS ICONIC.
YOU KIDS.
That's some strong stitch, you bet!

BEHOLD, THE MAN.

YES. I AM THE MAN.

MAN, NO OFFENSE, EVE, BUT THIS IS **WAY** BETTER THAN THAT PIECE OF CRAP YOU WHIPPED UP FOR ME.

WELL, YOU KNOW, HE **IS** A PROFESSIONAL AT THIS, REX...

WHICH REMINDS ME... WE CAN, UH, WORK OUT A PAYMENT PLAN, RIGHT?

DON'T WORRY, HON. WE'LL GET YOU THE FIRST-TIMER DISCOUNT.

OR, YOU KNOW, WE COULD EVEN WORK OUT A TWO-FOR-ONE?

SERIOUSLY, EVE, IF HE CAN MAKE YOUR COSTUME AS MUCH BETTER AS HE MADE MINE, LOOK OUT!

NO, THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I'VE GOT IT HANDLED.

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP, MR. ROSENBAUM. WE'LL BE IN TOUCH, I'M SURE.

NICE ALTERATIONS.

VERY NICE.

EVE? HEY, WHAT THE HELL?

EXIT

YEAH, SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO STORM OUT LIKE THAT. IT'S JUST—SEEING ERICKSON LIKE THAT REALLY MESSED ME UP.

Jester R.O.A

YEAH, WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT? I MEAN, YEAH, THAT GUY WAS A JERK, BUT WHAT'S YOUR BEEF WITH HIM?

HE KILLED MY PARENTS, REX.

WHAAAAAT? I'VE MET YOUR--

FIRST OF ALL, YOU'VE HIDDEN FROM MY PARENTS. NOT THE SAME THING. AND THOSE ARE MY *ADOPTIVE* PARENTS. THEY DON'T KNOW THAT, THOUGH. THEY THINK THEY'RE REAL.

MY REAL PARENTS WERE PART OF A GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENT DESIGNED TO MAKE A SUPER-WEAPON. AND, HEY, HERE I AM. AND ONCE ERICKSON THOUGHT HE HAD ME, HE "DISPOSED" OF MY REAL MOM AND DAD.

SO, OKAY, WHY DIDN'T HE RECOGNIZE YOU?

IT'S POSSIBLE I USED MY POWERS TO ERASE HIS MEMORY AND ALL VIDEO EVIDENCE OF MY EVER HAVING BEEN IN HIS FACILITIES.

WHAAAT? WHY DIDN'T YOU DO THAT TO HIM AGAIN?

IT DOESN'T WORK LIKE THAT! IT WAS AN *ACCIDENT!*

MAN, I DON'T THINK I GET YOUR POWERS AT ALL.

IT'S LIKE, PINK SHAPES THAT DO STUFF-- RIGHT? YOU MAKE PINK STUFF WITH YOUR THOUGHTS.

SO YOUR LIFE WAS RUINED BECAUSE SOME GOVERNMENT GUY WANTED A SUPERMAN TO BEAT UP SOME OTHER GOVERNMENT GUY'S SUPERMAN, HUH?

PRETTY MUCH.

YEAH. I CAN RELATE. CAN WE GO HOME NOW?

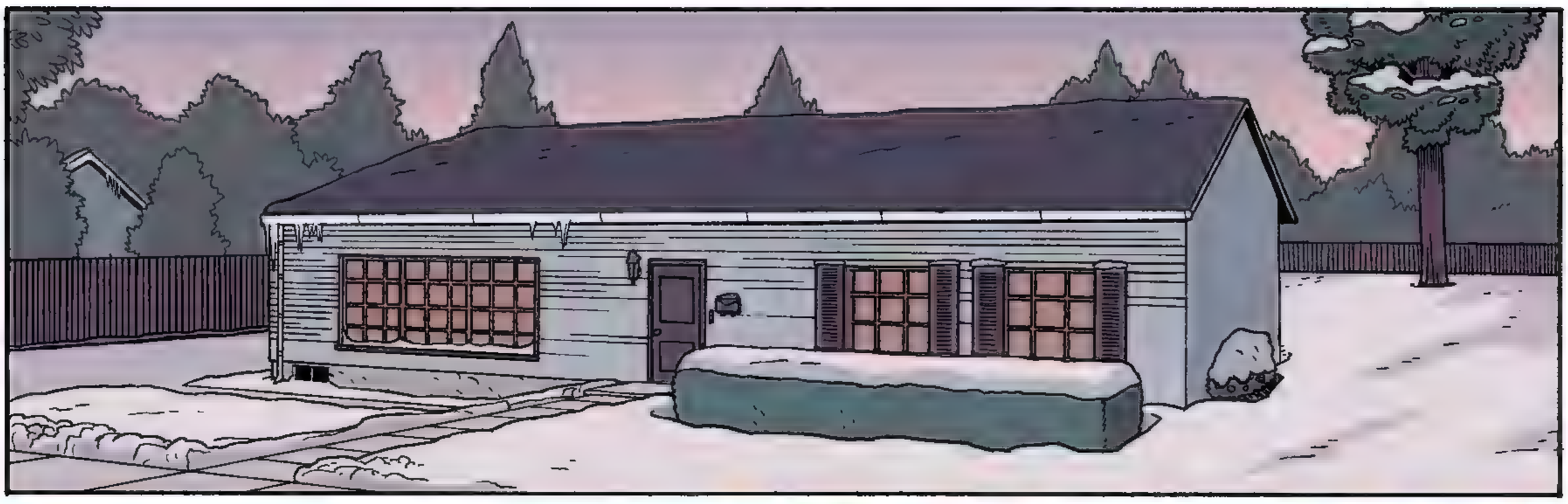
BACK TO MY PLACE?

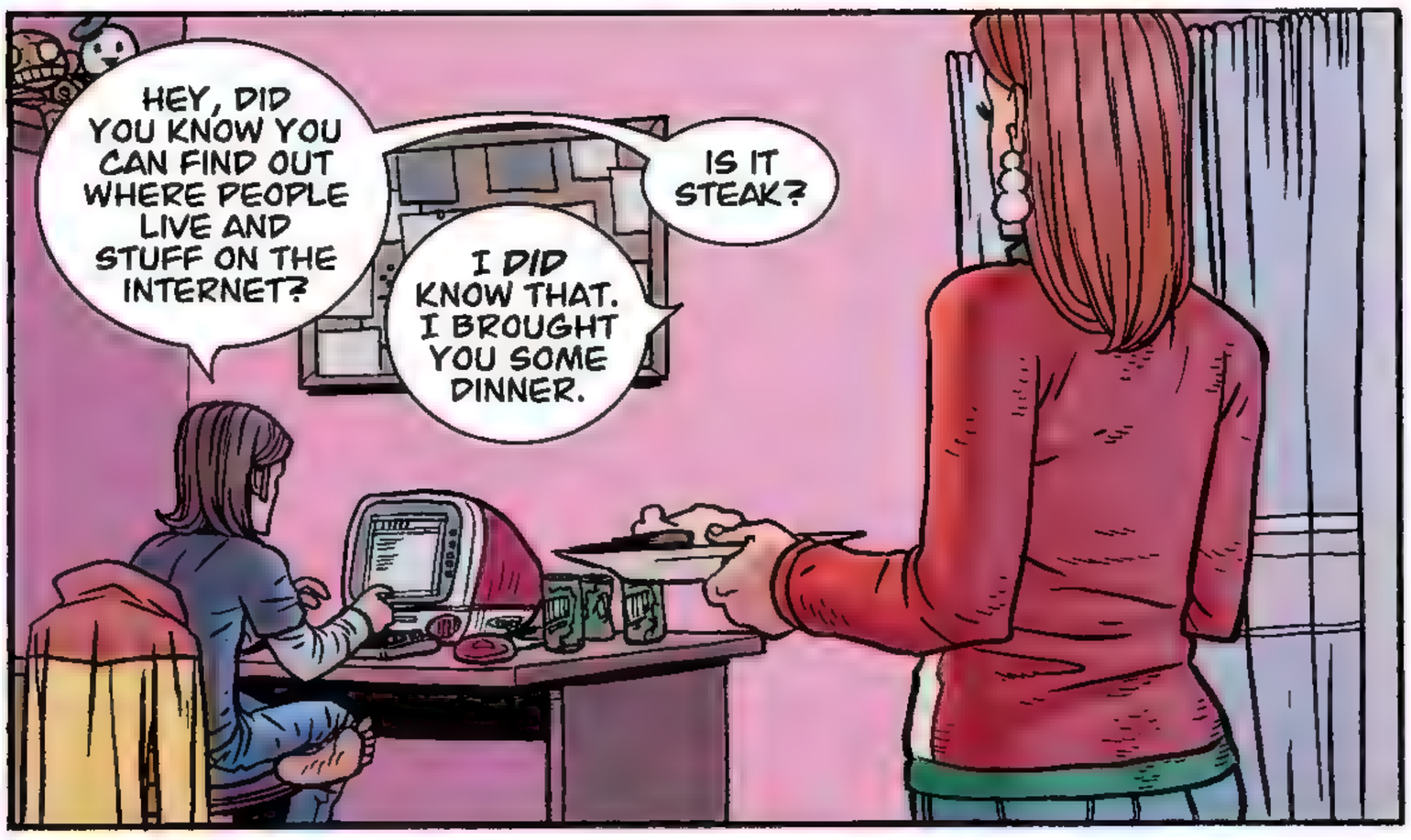
WHERE ELSE?

YOU'VE REALLY GOT A THING ABOUT DADS, HUH?

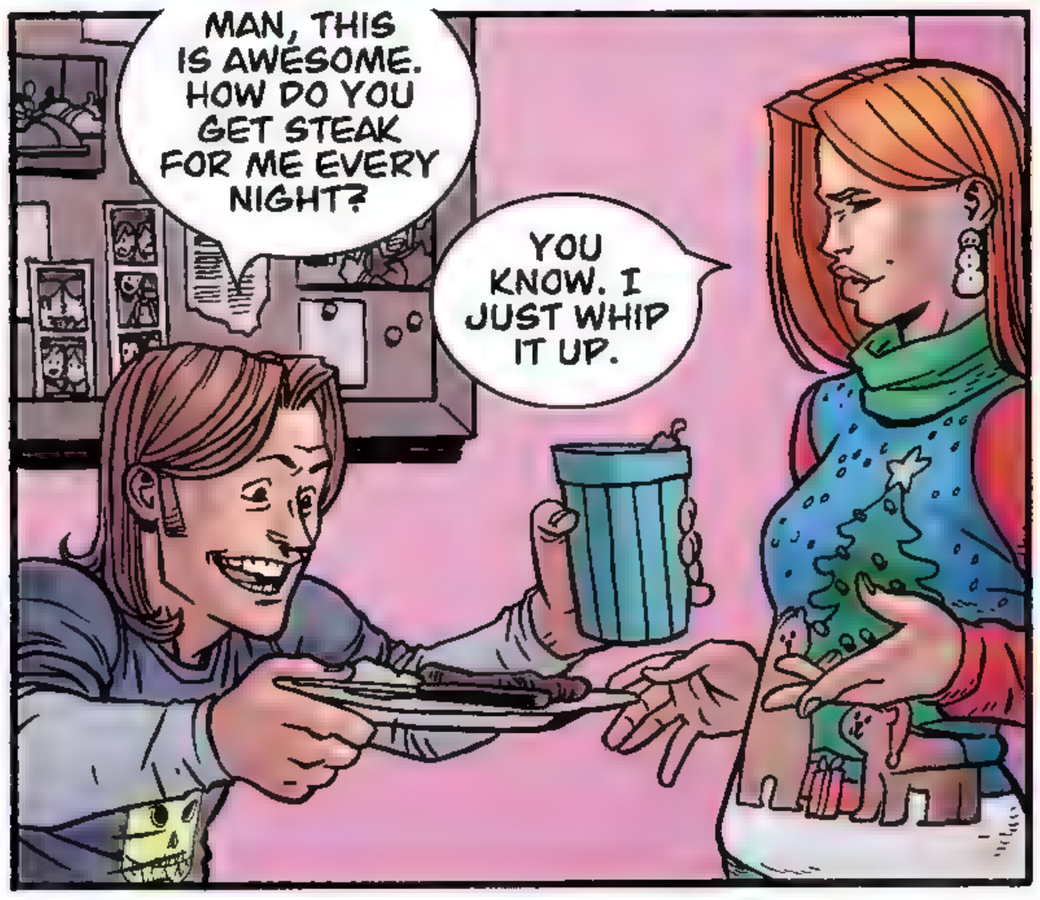
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T LIKE THEM! THEY DON'T LIKE ME. YOUR DAD WOULD HATE ME.

YEAH. I THINK THAT'S WHY I LIKE YOU SO MUCH.

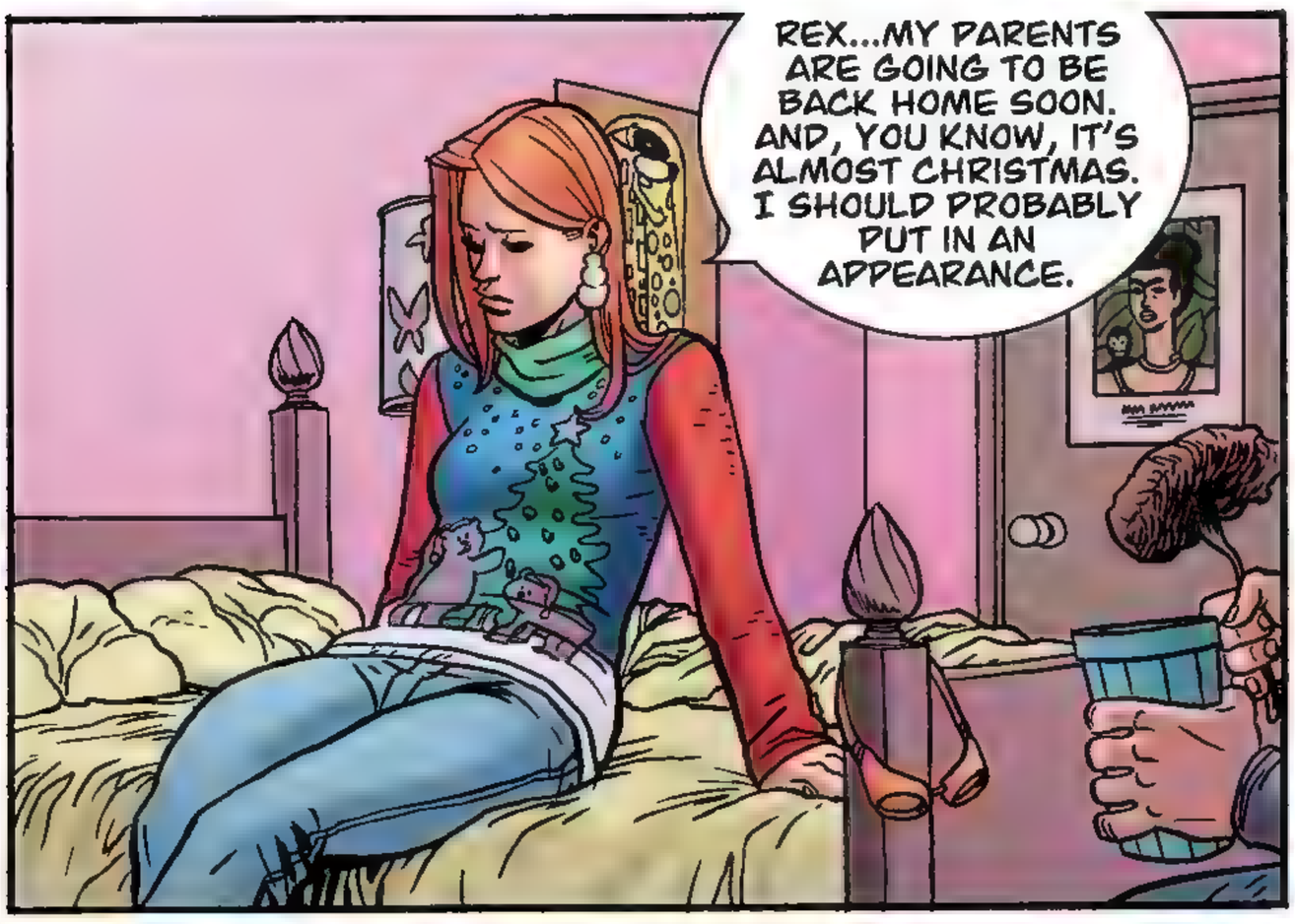


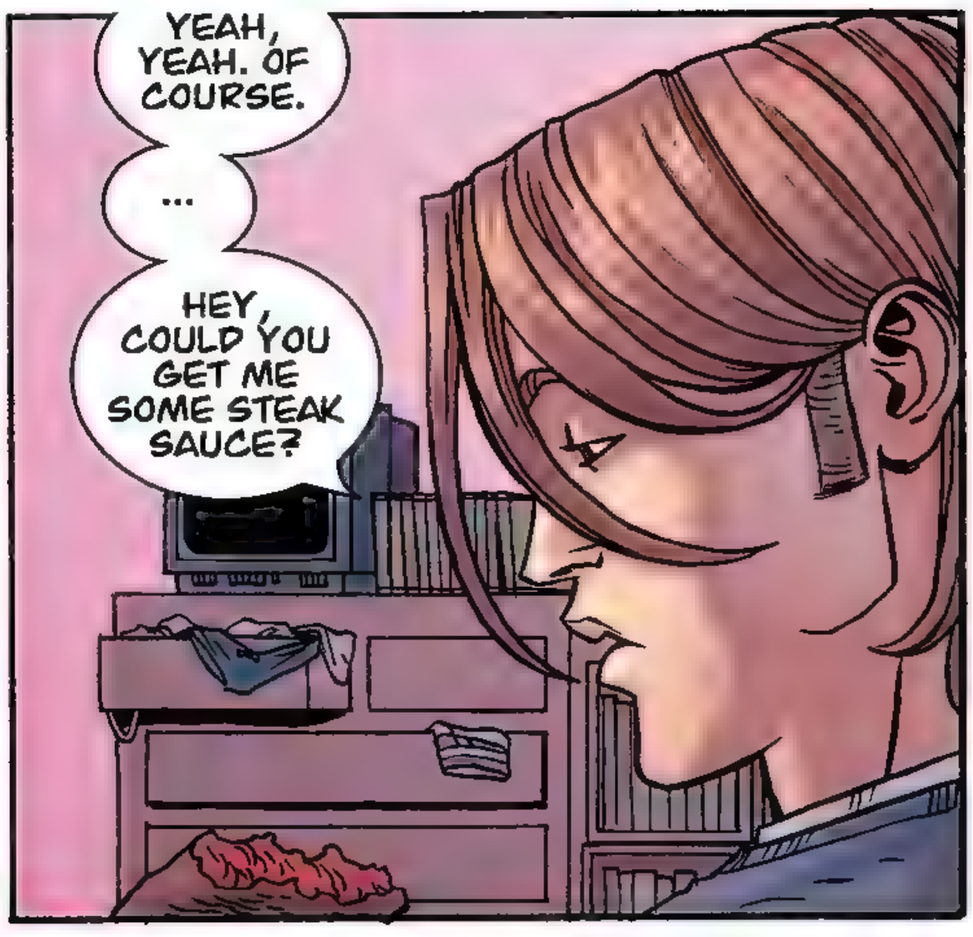

HEY, DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN FIND OUT WHERE PEOPLE LIVE AND STUFF ON THE INTERNET?
IS IT STEAK?
I DID KNOW THAT. I BROUGHT YOU SOME DINNER.


YEAH, IT'S STEAK.


MAN, THIS IS AWESOME. HOW DO YOU GET STEAK FOR ME EVERY NIGHT?
YOU KNOW. I JUST WHIP IT UP.

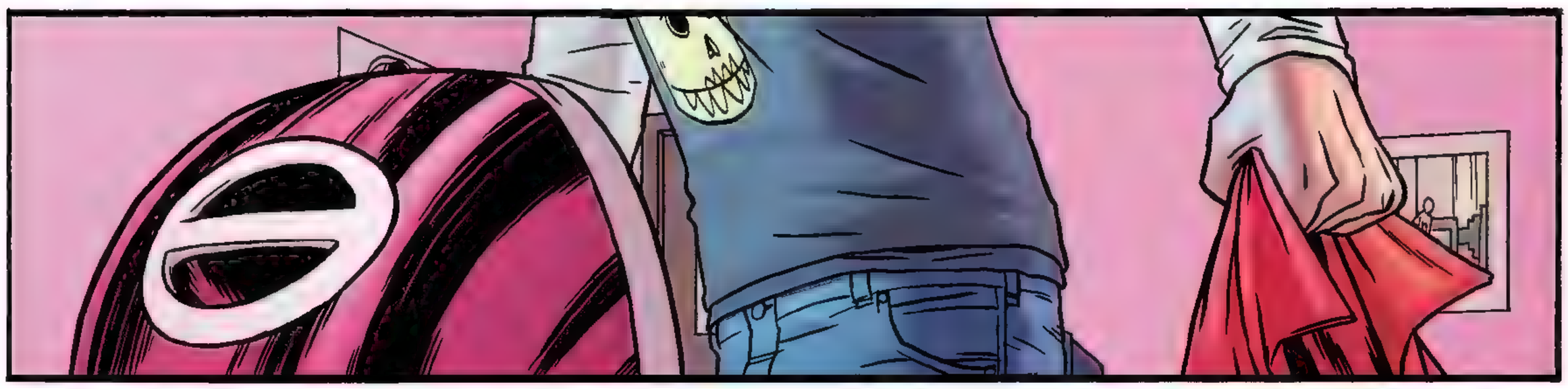

SO, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO TONIGHT? BUST SOME HEADS? THAT'S ALWAYS FUN.


REX...MY PARENTS ARE GOING TO BE BACK HOME SOON. AND, YOU KNOW, IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS. I SHOULD PROBABLY PUT IN AN APPEARANCE.

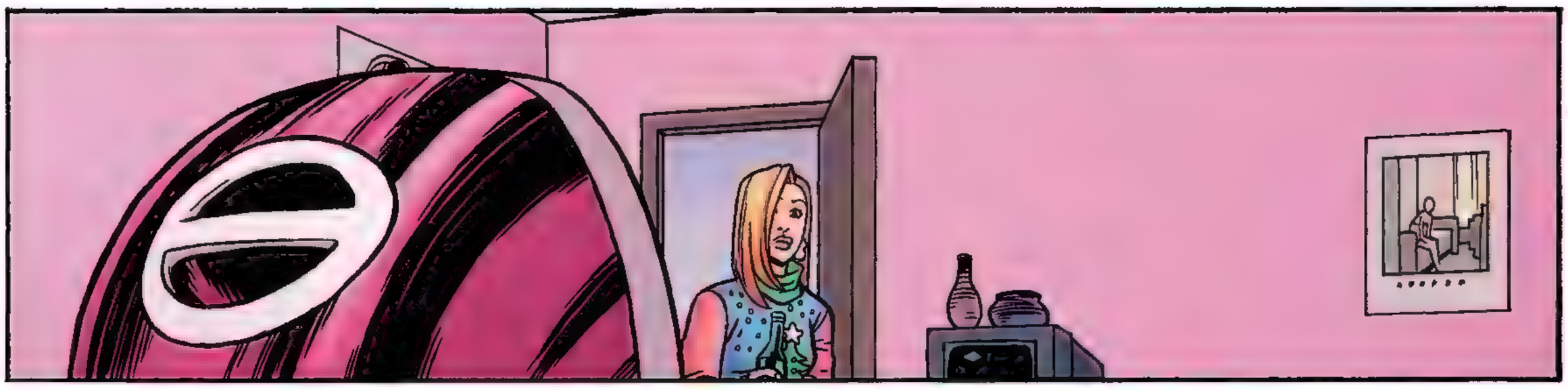

YEAH, YEAH. OF COURSE.
...
HEY, COULD YOU GET ME SOME STEAK SAUCE?












REX?
OH, REX...


NOEL

I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T DO IT.

YEAH. I GUESS THAT MAKES ME A COWARD, ON TOP OF EVERYTHING ELSE.

NO, I'D SAY IT MAKES YOU A GOOD PERSON.

MAYBE I JUST COULDN'T DO IT WITH YOU WATCHING. MAYBE I'LL COME BACK LATER.

BUT PROBABLY YOU WON'T.

YEAH. PROBABLY I WON'T.

...

THIS REALLY SUCKS.

LET'S GO FIND SOMETHING MORE FUN TO DO.

OH... I COULD THINK OF A FUN THING OR TWO THAT WE COULD DO TOGETHER...

STOP THEM, YOU FOOLS!

A DOUBLED CHRISTMAS BONUS GOES TO THE AGENT WHO BRINGS ME THEIR *HEADS!*

YOU KNOW, THIS IS NOT *AT ALL* WHAT I HAD IN MIND.

I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU HAVE IN MIND.

WE'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME FOR *THAT* LATER.

SWEET!

THEN LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH. TIME FOR *ATOM EVE AND REX SPLODE* TO KICK SOME BUTT!

WHY INVINCIBLE ISN'T IN THIS COMIC, STARRING:

OMNI-MAN!

WRITTEN BY
ROBERT KIRKMAN

PENCILED AND INKED BY
NATE BELLEGARDE

COLORED BY
BILL CRABTREE

LETTERED BY
RUS WOOTON

OH, LOOK, MARK... YOUR FATHER'S HOME EARLY.

HEY, DAD. WE STILL GOING TO THE BATTING CAGE THIS WEEKEND?

THAT'S THE PLAN, SON.

DID YOU HAPPEN TO GET YOUR POWERS YET?

NOPE.

OKAY, I'M GOING TO GET DRESSED FOR DINNER.

THE END.

WHY INVINCIBLE ISN'T IN THIS COMIC, STARRING:

OMNI-MAN!

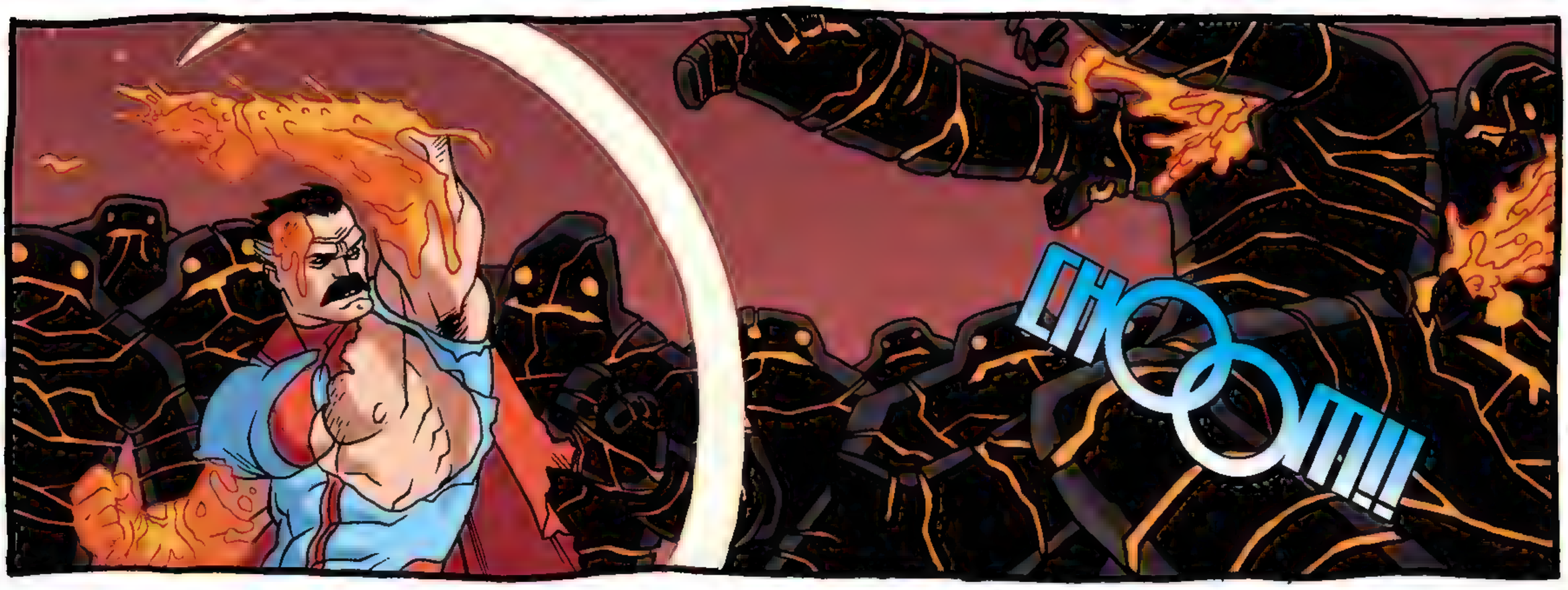
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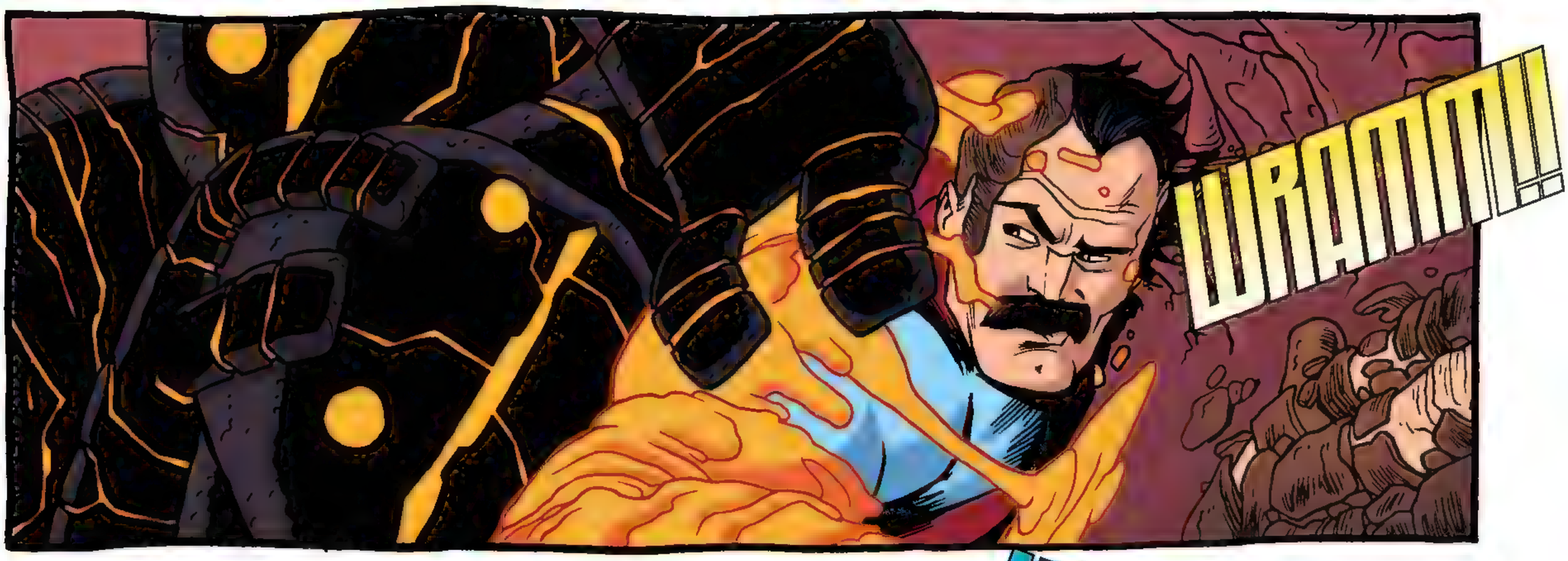
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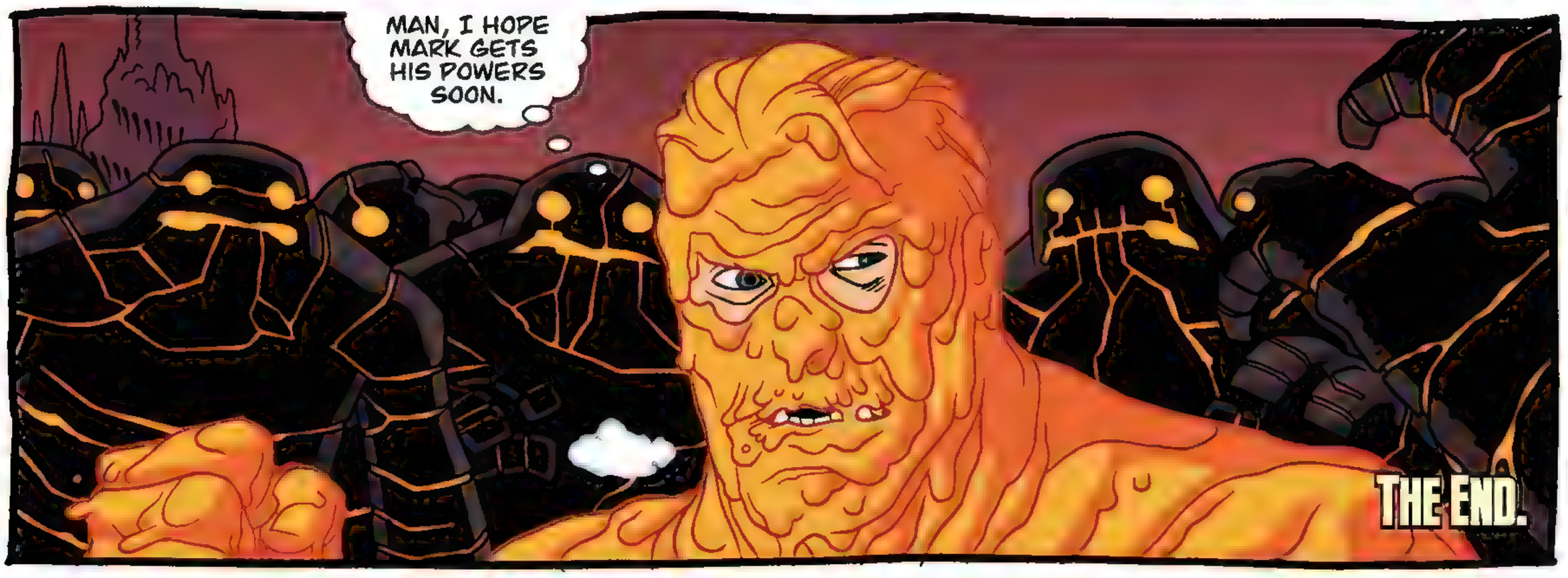
LETTERED BY
RUS WOOTON




CHOOM!!!


WRAMM!!


ARRGH!
KRA-KOOM!!


MAN, I HOPE MARK GETS HIS POWERS SOON.
THE END.



GUARDING THE GLOBE
VOL. 1 #1

I'VE FOUGHT MY SHARE OF ALIEN RACES IN MY DAY--BUT I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THESE GUYS. FLAXANS? IS THAT WHAT THESE THINGS ARE CALLED?

YES, BRIT--FLAXANS. THEY'VE TRIED TO INVADE MULTIPLE TIMES BEFORE YOU WERE THE GUARDIANS' TEAM LEADER.

I AM CONCERNED. THEY APPEAR TO BE GROWING STRONGER EACH TIME THEY ATTACK.

GREAT-- AND I'M LITTLE MORE THAN A HUMAN SHIELD OUT HERE. BEING INVULNERABLE ISN'T ENOUGH-- I'VE GOT NO WAY OF GETTING THESE INDESTRUCTIBLE FISTS THROUGH THEIR ARMOR.

BEST I CAN DO IS DEFLECT THEIR LASERS BACK AT THEM.

OUR USUAL MODE OF ATTACK WITH THEM IS TO BIDE OUR TIME UNTIL THEIR CHRONAL-DISPLACEMENT DEVICES FAIL AND THEY RETREAT BACK TO THEIR DIMENSIONAL PORTAL.

GOT ANY OTHER IDEAS?

I'M THINKING-- FOR NOW, WE GO WITH THAT.

IS HE TALKING ON THE *PHONE*?!

WHO? DO YOU *KNOW* THESE GUYS?

NEVER MIND.

VOP!

VOP!

VOP!

VOP!

VOP!

ROBOT AND I WERE GOING ON A DATE LATER--HE WAS GOING TO HELP ME PICK OUT A NEW DRESS! YOU GUYS RUINED MY DAY!

SKRAGG!

THIS IS TAKING TOO LONG, GUYS.

WE'RE STARTING TO GET OVERWHELMED-- I'M NOT IN THE MOOD TO *LOSE!*

WROKK!

CHEER UP, SAMSON--LOOK AT ME, I'M HAVING A BLAST! EARTH IS *SO MUCH* MORE FUN THAN MARS!

VOP!

UNGH.

WE NEED TO WRAP THIS UP, ROBOT-- EVERY SECOND THAT TICKS BY, THEIR NUMBERS **GROW.** WAITING THEM OUT ISN'T GOING TO WORK. WE'VE GOT TO SHUT THAT PORTAL DOWN!

NO. THE FLAXANS ARE FROM A DIMENSION NOT IN SYNC WITH OUR OWN. TIME FOR THEM RUNS MUCH SLOWER SO OUR DIMENSION CAUSES THEM TO AGE AT A RAPID RATE.

WE JUST NEED TO FIGURE OUT HOW THEY'RE BLOCKING THOSE EFFECTS. WE FIND THEIR CHRONAL DISPLACER--AND THIS WILL BE OVER.

THEN WE NEED TO BUY US SOME TIME TO DO THAT. THEIR TANKS ARE CUTTING OUR AIR FORCE TO RIBBONS.

I THINK I CAN HELP IN THAT REGARD. JUST GIVE ME A SECOND.

ARE YOU EVEN IN THAT ONE? I CAN NEVER TELL ANYMORE. WHERE **ARE** YOU?

I'LL GIVE YOU A HINT, I'M IN THE ONE WITH THE MOST LEG ROOM.

SKRAGOOM!!

VAP! VAP! VAP!

KRAKOOM!

WOW, LOOK AT THE-- WAIT! THEY'RE NOT RUNNING FROM *ME!* LOOK AT THEM, CLEARING THE AREA. THEY'RE STARTING TO AGE--

THAT'S IT, THE TANKS ARE EMITTING A DISTORTION FIELD. THEY JUST HAVE TO KEEP IN RANGE!

WE'VE GOT THEM, GUARDIANS! FOCUS ALL EFFORTS ON THE TANKS!

HOW DID WE NOT NOTICE THIS BEFORE?

KROOM!

KROOM!

REALLY-- WHAT WERE THEY *THINKING?!*

KROOM!

THESE GUYS ARE A JOKE! WHY DO THEY EVEN BOTHER?

KROOM!

KROOM!

KROOM!

NO!

DON'T YOU REALIZE HOW DANGEROUS THE FLAXANS ARE? DECADES PASS BETWEEN EACH OF THEIR ATTACKS! THE PLANNING, THE TIME AVAILABLE TO THEM...

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY FIGURE OUT HOW TO DEFEAT US--ENSLAVE US ALL! WE HAVE TO FOLLOW THEM BACK, STOP THEM ONCE AND FOR ALL!

WE'RE GOING BACK WITH THEM--TO ATTACK WHEN THEY LEAST EXPECT IT!

FOLLOW ME!

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

THIS IS THEIR ARMY--AND LOOK AT THEM. THEY OBVIOUSLY HAVE ACCESS TO THIS WORLD WHENEVER THEY WANT, SO GETTING BACK WILL BE NO TROUBLE.

ROBOT, STOP RIGHT NOW. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'D BE RUNNING INTO--OR HOW THEIR DIMENSION WILL AFFECT US!

WE CAN PLAN FOR THIS, DO IT ANOTHER TIME!

I'VE DONE THE CALCULATIONS, THIS MAY BE OUR LAST CHANCE. TRUST ME ON THIS.

THE PORTAL IS CLOSING--HURRY!

DEEP BELOW THE PENTAGON, THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY, LED BY CECIL STEDMAN.

UNITED STATES PENTAGON

Parking in Rear

THEY DID WHAT?!

ROBOT AND MONSTER GIRL FOLLOWED THE FLAXANS BACK INTO THEIR DIMENSION. TO HIS CREDIT, BRIT ORDERED THEM NOT TO GO, BUT HE WAS IGNORED.

THIS IS NOT A TIME TO HAVE OUR RANKS DEPLETED. INVINCIBLE TOOK HIS BROTHER AND TECH JACKET OUT INTO SPACE FOR GOD KNOWS HOW LONG...

WE JUST LOST REX SPLODE AND DARKWING. IMMORTAL AND KATE ARE RETIRED... WE CAN'T TAKE ANOTHER HIT. MONSTER GIRL AND ROBOT... THEY WERE CORE MEMBERS OF OUR TEAM.

I'M ALREADY LINING UP CANDIDATES TO FILL OUT OUR ROSTER. WE'LL HAVE A FULL GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE TEAM IN NO TIME.

NO.

NO.

NO!

WE'VE BEEN GOING ABOUT THIS **ALL** WRONG FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

EVER SINCE WE LOST THE ORIGINAL GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE TO OMNI-MAN... WE HAVEN'T--I HAVEN'T BEEN THINKING ABOUT THE BIG PICTURE.

WE'RE CHASING OUR OWN TAILS. REPLACING A MEMBER HERE--A MEMBER THERE...

WE DON'T NEED TO FILL OUT THE ROSTER ON *ONE* TEAM--WE NEED TO FILL OUT THE ROSTER ON *ALL* TEAMS.

I DON'T FOLLOW.

WE NEED TO BRING AS MANY SUPERHEROES AS WE CAN, FROM ALL ACROSS THE GLOBE, UNDER OUR UMBRELLA.

UNIFY THEM INTO A COHESIVE NETWORK--A TEAM, BUT MORE THAN THAT...

AN *ARMY!* A GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE TEAM WITH MEMBERS STATIONED ALL ACROSS THE PLANET--READY TO LEAP INTO ACTION AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE...

IT'S TIME WE STRIVED FOR SOMETHING *MORE*...

IT'S TIME TO TRULY BEGIN TO LIVE UP TO OUR NAME, *THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE*... IT'S TIME TO TRULY BEGIN...

...GUARDING THE GLOBE!

ONE WEEK LATER.

SHOOT-POW!

NICE.

GOOD AFTERNOON, BRIT. I TAKE IT YOU APPROVE?

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I ACTUALLY *DO*. DON'T KNOW WHY WE HAD TO GO SO PRIMARY ON THE COSTUME COLORS, BUT I CAN LIVE WITH IT.

THE JET BOOTS AND GLOVES ARE JUST *GENIUS*, DONALD. IT'S ESSENTIALLY GIVEN ME SUPER-STRENGTH. TOOK SOME GETTING USED TO--AT FIRST I WAS TRYING TO GET THEM TO THROW ME THROUGH WALLS, TRYING TO GET THE BUILDING TO COLLAPSE ON THEM. THAT'S HOW I *USED* TO FIGHT.

BEATING THE SNOT OUT OF THEM IS MUCH EASIER.

IT'S A NEW SCIENTIST WE HAVE WORKING FOR US, D.A. SINCLAIR, WHO INVENTED THE BOOTS AND GLOVES.

I CAN INTRODUCE YOU IF YOU'D LIKE.

UGH, YOU KNOW ME... I *HATE* GETTING TO KNOW NEW PEOPLE.

WELL, YOU BETTER GET USED TO IT. YOU'RE THE LEADER OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE NOW--AND WITH ROBOT AND MONSTER GIRL TRAPPED IN THAT OTHER DIMENSION... THERE ARE GOING TO BE A LOT OF NEW FACES AROUND.

DID YOU HEAR WE'RE EXPANDING THE TEAM?

IS THERE STILL TIME FOR ME TO BACK OUT OF THIS?

DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT.

=SIGH.=

COME WITH ME, I'M GOING TO SEE IF I CAN FLY HOME ON MY OWN.

LANDINGS ARE GOING TO BE TOUGH AT FIRST.

YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT MY HELP?

BACK OFF! I DON'T NEED YOU PLAYING NURSEMAID. I CAN DO THIS!

WHOOO!

SKRRG!

SEE YOU TOMORROW, THEN?

SHUT UP.

WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU WEARING?!

=SIGH.= THIS IS MY NEW COSTUME.

IT'S MAKING ME A MORE EFFECTIVE FIGHTER. THE SUPER-TEAM I'M LEADING IS GOING TO BE EXPANDING AND THEY NEED ME TO LOOK THE PART.

IT'S A WHOLE THING.

IT'S BAD ENOUGH YOU HAVE DONALD FLYING YOU HOME EVERY DAY-- NOW THE NEIGHBORS HAVE TO SEE YOU IN *THIS*? YOU LOOK *RIDICULOUS*. I DON'T EVEN WANT TO KNOW WHAT THEY THINK OF US... NOT THAT I REALLY CARE, MIND YOU.

WHAT ABOUT SUPER VILLAINS? ISN'T IT BAD TO HAVE EVERYONE KNOWING YOU LIVE HERE?

SUPER VILLAINS, JESSICA? ARE YOU KIDDING? THIS PLACE IS A *FORTRESS*. WE'VE GOT UNDERGROUND BUNKERS, PANIC ROOMS, ESCAPE PODS.

IF VILLAINS ATTACKED THE PENTAGON-- I'D COME *HERE*.

JUST THE SAME, PLEASE... TAKE *THAT* OFF BEFORE YOU COME HOME.

AND GO CHANGE, I DON'T EVEN WANT TO LOOK AT IT.

OH, BRITTANY, HONEY-- WHAT'S WRONG?

I KINDA LIKED IT.

THE SPRAWLING ESTATE OF BLACK SAMSON.

ARE YOU SURE IT'S COOL FOR YOU TO SHOW UP WITH ME LIKE THIS?

CARLA, BABY--OF COURSE IT IS! I BRING LADIES TO THESE PARTIES ALL THE TIME! SAMSON IS TOTALLY COOL WITH ME INVITING SPECIAL GUESTS TO HIS CRIB.

ALL THE TIME, HUH?

FOR HIM, OBVIOUSLY. SAMSON'S BEEN LONELY IN THIS BIG HOUSE BY HIMSELF. YOU'RE THE FIRST LADY I BROUGHT FOR ME. I AM A ONE-WOMAN MAN, BABY. TRUST ME.

ZANDALE AND UH... ROBBIE. WELCOME TO STATELY SAMSON MANOR. I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, BUT I'VE TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF STARTING WITHOUT YOU. PLEASE COME IN AND TRY TO CATCH UP.

I ALWAYS JUST CALL YOU SHAPESMITH-- DID YOU EVER PICK A NAME? NEVER MIND-- YOU'RE ROBBIE TONIGHT.

AND, MARTIAN, WHO'S THIS CHICK BULLETPROOF'S GOT WITH HIM? SHE BEEN HERE BEFORE? SHE LOOKS FAMILIAR, BUT HE'S KIND OF GOT A TYPE.

NAH, SHE'S NEW. NAME'S CARLA. SHE WAS ONE OF HIS MODELS. Y'KNOW--FOR HIS PAINTINGS.

I THINK SHE'S NICE. SHE BOUGHT ME A LAFFY TAFFY AT THE GAS STATION. HAD TO ASK FOR IT, THOUGH. IS THAT A THING ON EARTH? HAVING TO ASK FOR A GIFT SORT OF RUINS THINGS ON MARS.

WOW, SAMSON. YOU HAVE A VERY NICE PLACE. A LOT MORE ELEGANT AND TASTEFUL THAN I MIGHT HAVE GUESSED FOR A SWINGING BACHELOR PAD... IF YOU DON'T MIND ME SAYING.

HEH, NOT AT ALL, THANK YOU, BUT SURELY YOU CAN'T MEAN MY HUMBLE HOME IS SOMEHOW NICER THAN YOUR MAN, ZANDALE'S PLACE, CAN YOU?

OH, AND YOU'RE FUNNY, TOO! VERY NICE. NO, THIS BOY'S IDEA OF LUXURY IS SOME VINTAGE BLAXSPLOITATION POSTERS AND A FUTON MATTRESS ON THE FLOOR!

HEY! IT'S A NICE FUTON! IT'S BLACK LEATHER!

HONEY, THAT IS *VINYL.*

SO WHAT'S THE PLAN FOR THE NIGHT, SAMSON? ARE WE GOING TO WATCH A SPORT?

I THOUGHT WE MIGHT WATCH A SPORT, YES.

WOW, BEER!

HEY, AFTER WE WATCH A SPORT, CAN WE PLAY ROCK BAND?

NO.

ROBOT USED TO LET ME PLAY ROCK BAND. I CAN PLAY THE GUITAR AND DRUMS AT THE SAME TIME.

HOW'S YOUR BEER, ROBBIE?

IT'S YUCKY.

STRONGHOLD PENITENTIARY.

KRAK.

HGHN?

WHERE?

YOU'RE STILL IN AMERICA. YOU'RE BEING KEPT UNCONSCIOUS TO PREVENT YOU FROM RELEASING YOUR SOUL PROJECTION.

I'M FREEING YOU.

THE ORDER HAS SUMMONED YOU.

WHO ARE Y--?

I AM EMBRACE. YOU ARE TO COME WITH ME.

THUD.

THE SUBURBAN HOME OF IMMORTAL AND DUPLI-KATE.

KATE, I MUST SAY, YOU LOOK POSITIVELY RADIANT. WHEN ARE YOU EXPECTING THE LITTLE ONE? IT IS ONLY ONE, RIGHT?

HAH! YES, WELL, THE ULTRASOUND ONLY SHOWS ONE, BUT GIVEN KATE'S HISTORY, WE'RE EXPECTING THE UNEXPECTED.

I'M A LITTLE LESS THAN HALFWAY, CECIL. IT FEELS LIKE I'VE GOT A LOT LONGER TO GO. I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M GOING TO BE A MOTHER IN A FEW SHORT MONTHS.

SO, ARE YOU GROWING ME A LITTLE RECRUIT IN THERE OR WHAT?

CECIL, PLEASE! AT LEAST WAIT UNTIL THE UMBILICAL CORD IS CUT.

LOOK, WHILE I APPRECIATE THE SOCIAL CALL AND THE REMINISCING, WE ALL KNOW WHY YOU'RE REALLY HERE. I HEARD ABOUT ROBOT AND MONSTER GIRL.

WHILE KATE AND I APPRECIATE THE RESPECT YOU'VE SHOWN US BY TRYING TO LURE US BACK TO THE TEAM, THE FACT IS, WE'RE EXTREMELY HAPPY HERE IN RETIREMENT.

IN MY TIME, I'VE BEEN A LOT OF THINGS: A WARRIOR, A SOLDIER, A STATESMAN, A HERO. BUT THERE'S ONE THING I HAVEN'T TRIED YET—A SOLID, RELIABLE FAMILY MAN. I FIGURED IT WAS TIME I FINALLY GAVE IT A SHOT.

BUT IF IT SHOULD HAPPEN THAT I NEED A LITTLE EXTRA MONEY TO PUT THE GRANDKIDS THROUGH COLLEGE, SURE, MAYBE I'LL DROP YOU A LINE.

THE FACT IS, BRIT, WE HAVEN'T BEEN A TRUE GUARDIANS OF THE ***GLOBE*** SINCE THE ORIGINAL TEAM DIED. THERE'S NO DENYING OUR FOCUS LATELY HAS BEEN ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON THE UNITED STATES.

WITH REX AND DARKWING'S DEATHS, THE DISAPPEARANCE OF ROBOT AND MONSTER GIRL--AND THE REFUSAL OF IMMORTAL AND DUPLI-KATE TO REJOIN THE TEAM, WE'RE MORE SHORT-HANDED THAN EVER.

INVINCIBLE IS CURRENTLY OFF-WORLD. THINK ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF SOMETHING REALLY ***MAJOR*** HAPPENED.

REANIMEN, WHILE OFTEN EFFECTIVE, ARE IMPRACTICAL TO SHIP OUT IN LARGE NUMBERS.

ADD TO THAT THE FACT THAT MOST AMERICANS PROBABLY DON'T WANT TO BE RESCUED BY AN ARMY OF ROBOT FRANKENSTEIN MONSTERS.

AND SO OFF WE GO RECRUITING.

EXACTLY.

WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HERE IS A MAJOR EXPANSION INTO A TRUE GLOBAL INITIATIVE. WE WANT TO SHOW THE WORLD THAT THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE AREN'T JUST A BUNCH OF AMERICANS POLICING THE WORLD. WE WANT THE WORLD TO BE REPRESENTED IN OUR RANKS.

SO THAT'S WHY WE'RE FLYING TO CHINA.

NEPAL.

WHATEVER.

SO WHO'S THE NEW GUY? ANYONE I KNOW?

NO, SOME LOCAL GUY WHO'S POPPED UP IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS. HE'S MADE A COUPLE OF IMPRESSIVE HEADLINES IN ASIA RECENTLY, BUT THE BEST PART IS, HE'S THE ONE WHO CONTACTED US. HE SEEMS PRETTY EAGER TO JOIN UP.

ALL RIGHT, BUT WHAT DOES HE LOOK LIKE?

TRUST ME, YOU'LL KNOW HIM WHEN YOU SEE HIM.

CRASH!

CHOSE NOT TO USE THE JET BOOTS, HUH?

I'M AN OLD MAN, CECIL. SOMETIMES I FORGET.

DONALD TOLD YOU THAT? THAT'S JUST GREAT.

MORE LIKELY YOU DIDN'T WANT A REPEAT PERFORMANCE OF THE LANDING AT YOUR HOUSE THE OTHER DAY.

BETTER A CONTROLLED CRASH THAN AN ACCIDENTAL ONE, THOUGH, RIGHT?

OH, LAUGH IT UP, OLD MAN.

GRAARRGH!!

EH?

WHAT IN THE--!

GOARGH!

HEY, CECIL-- I GOT SOME KIND OF BIG MONSTER FIGHTING A BUNCH OF SMALLER MONSTERS. GONNA HAVE TO GO RADIO SILENT FOR A MINUTE WHILE I FIGURE THIS OUT.

ONE OF THE MONSTERS COVERED IN WHITE FUR, BIG TEETH?

YEAH. THAT OUR MAN?

SKRAAOSH!

THAT'S YETI. HE'S OUR RECRUIT. WHATEVER HE'S FIGHTING, THEY'RE PROBABLY NOT ON OUR SIDE.

LOOK OUT, BIG GUY-- HELP'S ON THE WAY!

HELP? WHO--

SKRAGGH!!

ULP!

OOF!

FWUMP!

BRIT?! YOU ARE BRIT, ARE YOU NOT?! THIS IS AMAZING. I CAN'T--

AHEM! I HAVE BEEN AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL. IT IS GOOD TO MEET YOU.

SAME TO YOU. YOU NEED ANY HELP THERE?

WITH THESE THINGS?!

SKREESH!

NAH, ONCE THEIR NUMBERS ARE MANAGEABLE-- THEY'RE EASY TO BEAT.

SKREESH!

THERE ARE MANY ***EVILS*** HIDDEN WITHIN THESE MOUNTAINS. THE ICE SPIRITS ARE THE LESSER AMONG THEM.

I USE THEM FOR TRAINING.

IS THAT A NEW COSTUME?

I'VE BEEN A SUPERHERO FOR OVER ONE-HUNDRED YEARS. MIGHT AS WELL START LOOKING THE PART.

STILL GETTING THE HANG OF THE JET GLOVES.

I THINK IT LOOKS ***AMAZING!*** I'M SO GLAD TO GET TO MEET YOU. I'M A HUGE FAN OF YOUR WORK.

GOOD TO HEAR, UH... OKAY, THEN... IF YOU'RE JOINING THIS TEAM, FOLLOW ME.

WE'VE GOT A PLANE TO CATCH.

WHAT IS THIS PLACE? WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME HERE?!

WHO ARE YOU? *EMBRACE?* I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF YOU!

AS MUCH TIME AS YOU'VE SPENT EITHER IN PRISON OR CLEANING UP YOUR OWN MESSES IN AMERICA, IT'S NO SURPRISE TO ME AT ALL.

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE TO SPEAK TO ME THAT WAY? I'M A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE ORDER!

I DEMAND YOUR *RESPECT!*

BOW YOUR HEAD!

SET...

I HAD NO IDEA *YOU* WERE TAKING A PERSONAL INTEREST IN--

STILL YOUR TONGUE BEFORE I REMOVE IT FOR MY COLLECTION.

LOOK IN MY *EYES*, MISTER LIU.

WERE YOU OF NO FURTHER USE TO ME, I WOULD BE HOLDING YOUR HEAD, SEVERED FROM YOUR BODY, SPLIT AND CRACKED, ALL YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS DRIPPING FROM MY ELBOWS.

BE THANKFUL THE ORDER STILL HAS NEED OF YOU.

THE CITIZEN MOVES AGAINST US. I WILL NOT HAVE HIM RISE UP, DISRUPTING WHAT WE'VE WORKED DECADES TO ESTABLISH.

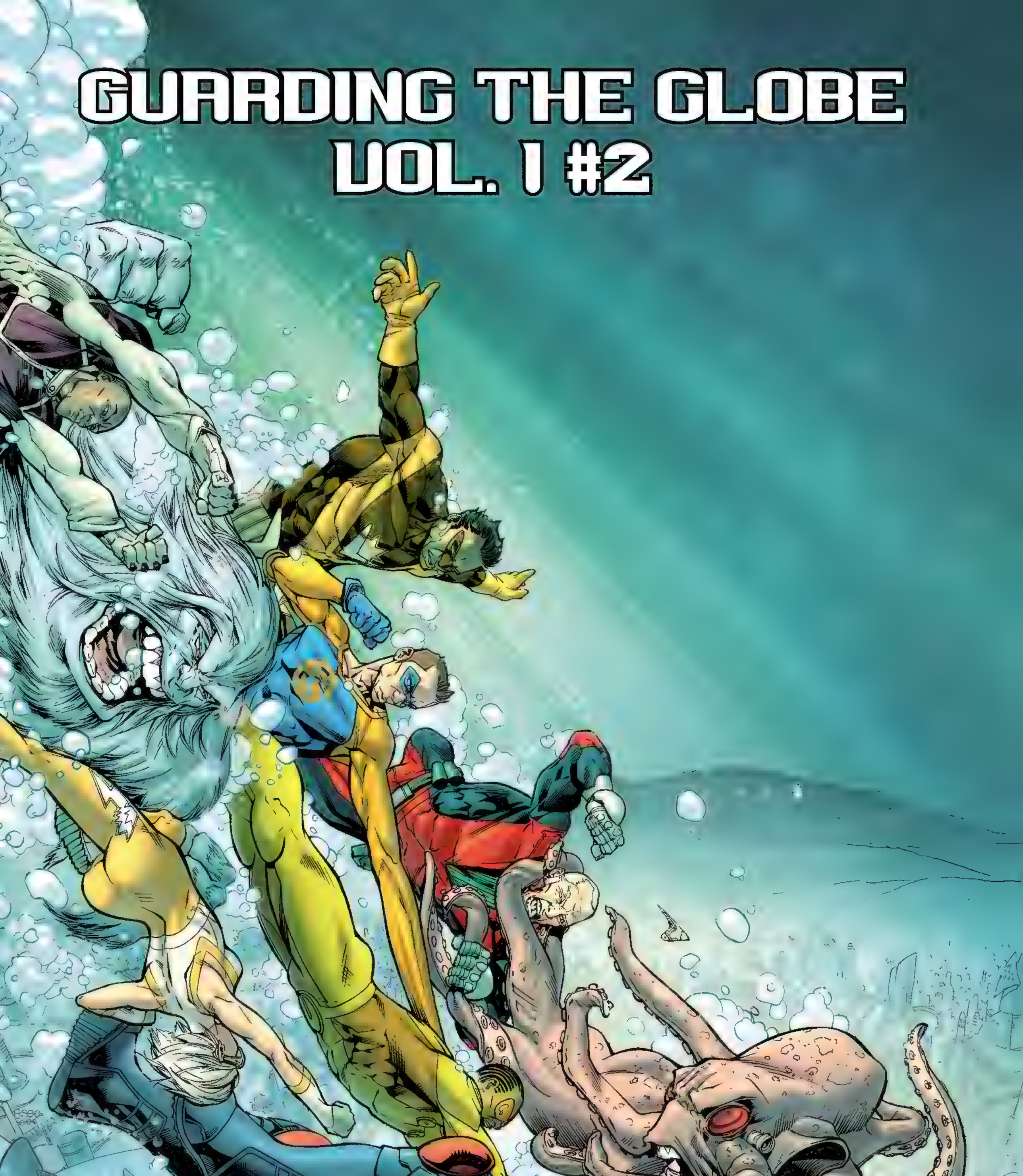
THE ORDER WILL REMAIN INTACT.

WE'VE LURKED IN THE SHADOWS LONG ENOUGH. THE CITIZEN WILL *FEAR* US. I WILL FEEL HIS BLOOD RAIN DOWN ON MY FACE AS HIS WORLD BURNS AROUND HIM.

THIS WILL ALL COME TO PASS--AND YOU WILL HELP ME MAKE IT SO.



GUARDING THE GLOBE
VOL. 1 #2



THE AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK.

DINGO!

THIS IS YOUR LAST HUNT EVER, MATE!

WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT, KABOOMERANG! WILL THAT BE BEFORE OR *AFTER* YOU'RE DEVOURED BY MY CANINE MINIONS?!

DINGO, MATE-- *PLEASE.* THESE ARE JUST DOGS. YOU THINK THROWING EXPLODING BOOMERANGS IS ALL I DO?

I COULD DANCE WITH THESE LOVELIES ALL DAY AND THEY'D NEVER EVEN GET SO MUCH AS A NIBBLE OFF MY BUM.

NOT THAT I'M WILLING TO WASTE TOO MUCH TIME AT IT.

WRAMM!!

NOW--

KA-BOOM!

KA-BOOM!

YOU WALK AROUND LIKE A MAN--WHY DON'T YOU TRY TO *FIGHT* LIKE ONE!

DO NOT INSULT ME BY COMPARING ME TO YOUR KIND! I AM NO MAN--NOR DO I *WISH* TO BE!

YOU'LL--

KRAK!

OH, STUFF IT!

BLOODY TAKING TOO LONG, THIS IS.

Ka-BOOM!

Ka-BOOM!

Ka-BOOM!

HAH! YOU MIS--

KRAOOM!!!

HAH, YOURSELF, MATE!

KRAKK!

MY--MY PEOPLE... HAVE THEY COME FOR ME?!

I--EH? WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU LOOKING AT, YOU WA--

OY! IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU BASTARDS AND ALL, BUT I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T GETTING HERE UNTIL *TOMORROW!*

KRAK!

MMPH!

WE WERE IN THE GENERAL NEIGHBORHOOD, THOUGHT WE'D SWING BY. SEA MONSTER OFF THE COAST OF NEW ZEALAND.

IT WAS NEAT! I SAW A *SHEEP!*

SO, YEAH, I'VE BEEN AT IT A FEW YEARS, PRETTY MUCH SEEN IT ALL. FOUGHT POACHERS IN THE BUSH, CRIME SYNDICATES IN THE BIG CITIES...

...EVEN A HANDFUL OF FOREIGN IDIOTS WHO THOUGHT THE WORST THING THEY COULD DO IS BLOW UP THE BLOODY OPERA HOUSE.

DO YOU THINK YOU WILL HAVE A HARD TIME ADJUSTING TO HAVING TO LIVE RIGHT SIDE UP?

ER, NO, MATE-- I DON'T.

HOW CAN YOU EAT THAT STUFF? IT SMELLS LIKE DIRT HAD A BABY IN THERE.

I DUNNO. IT REMINDS ME OF HOME.

ERM, NO OFFENSE, MATE.

UH, NONE COMPREHENDED.

SO WHAT IS IT THAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO JOIN UP WITH OUR OUTFIT?

WELL, MATE, I DON'T WANT TO BIG-NOTE MYSELF, BUT I'VE DONE ALL AN AUSSIE SUPER CAN. I'LL NEVER GET ANYWHERE JUST BUSTING HEADS OUT IN THE BLOODY SAND, YOU GET ME?

I THOUGHT THE BEST WAY TO MAKE A NAME FOR MYSELF, AND MAYBE MAKE A BUCK, YOU KNOW, WAS TO GO O.S. AND JOIN UP WITH YOU SEPPOS.

OY, I WANT TO THANK YOU BLOKES FOR INVITING ME TO THIS HERE SAUSAGE PARTY... BUT, MATE, WHERE ARE ALL THE BLOODY *CHICKS?*

TRUST ME, WE'RE WORKING ON IT.

AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION IN UTAH.

THE SECRET MOUNTAIN BASE OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE.

CECIL! HEY, BUDDY. WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

I'M HERE ON BEHALF OF AN ALLY IN NEED.

TEAM, THIS IS LETHAN, THE CURRENT AQUARUS, MONARCH OF ATLANTIS-- AND, EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW IT, HONORARY MEMBER OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE.

AQUARUS IS THE UNDISPUTED RULER OF ALL THE WORLD'S OCEANS. THAT MEANS HIS EMPIRE COVERS SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS MEANS HIS BORDERS ARE ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE TO INVASION.

AND? IT ALSO MEANS THEY HAVE A HUGE ARMY AND SUPER ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY. WHY DO THEY NEED OUR *HELP?*

YES, WELL, SUFFICE IT TO SAY, LETHAN HERE IS NOT EXACTLY GENERAL PATTON.

NOW, HOLD ON A MINUTE. I FOUGHT SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE LAST AQUARUS FOR YEARS, AND I LEARNED A FEW THINGS ABOUT ATLANTIS.

THE GOVERNMENT THERE IS A MERITOCRACY BASED ON STRENGTH AND COURAGE. IN ORDER TO BECOME THE NEW AQUARUS, YOU NOT ONLY HAVE TO *KILL* THE LAST AQUARUS, YOU ALSO HAVE TO DEFEAT A HUGE-ASS MONSTER IN SINGLE COMBAT.

NOW, I KNOW OMNI-MAN TOOK CARE OF THE KILLING THE LAST KING PART, BUT HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE THIS MILQUETOAST DID ALL THAT OTHER STUFF?

WELL, YOUR FRIEND INVINCIBLE *DID* HELP A LITTLE.*

THAT'S PUTTING IT MILDLY. EXCUSE US FOR JUST ONE SECOND, YOUR MAJESTY.

*SEE *INVINCIBLE* ISSUE 15, COLLECTED IN *INVINCIBLE VOL. 4* FOR DETAILS.

LOOK, I KNOW NOBODY IS SUPER-IMPRESSED BY THIS LITTLE WEASEL, BUT THE FACT IS, HE RULES A HUGE EMPIRE FULL OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY THAT CAN BE AND HAS BEEN VERY BENEFICIAL TO US.

AND IF A SINGLE PERSON HAS TO BE IN CHARGE OF ALL THAT, I'D RATHER IT BE SOMEONE I CAN CONTROL, YOU FOLLOW ME? IF KEEPING HIM ON OUR SIDE MEANS HELPING HIM FIGHT OFF ONE LITTLE INVASION, SO BE IT.

BESIDES, LOOK AT THIS GUY! HOW BAD CAN THE THREAT BE? PUT ME ON RECORD, THIS ONE'S NOT GOING TO TAKE MORE THAN AN HOUR.

I SUPPOSE IT'S NOT A BAD IDEA TO TEST OUT THE NEW RECRUITS ON AN EASY ONE.

THAT'S THE IDEA...

LATER, IN THE DRY DOCK OF THE CAPITAL CITY OF ATLANTIS.

EACH OF YOU WILL NEED THESE CMG UNITS-- COMPACT MECHANICAL GILLS--IN ORDER TO BREATHE WHEN YOU EXIT INTO THE CITY PROPER.

NO, THANKS. I'M GOOD.

HAND UP THE AIR, USURPERS!

YOUR DEFEAT AM NEXT AT THE TENDRILS ON OCTOBOSS!

NOT OFF TO A GREAT START!

KRONK!!!

OCTOBOSS! REX TOLD ME ABOUT THIS GUY.

YEAH? WHAT DID HE SAY ABOUT HIM?

HE SAID HE'S SUPER GROSS AND HE TALKS LIKE AN IDIOT.

ACK! THAT'S REAL HELPFUL. WHAT DO YOU THINK HE WANTS?

ME AM TELL YOU WHAT WANTING!

AM DRIVEN EXILE OUT CEPHALON HOME PLANET. TOO BIG, TOO MEANEST AT THAT PEOPLE. LOTS OF SQUIDMEN PUT I ON SPACE BOAT, US LEAVE OF PLANET, OCTOBOSS INSIDE CHAINS.

BUT OCTOBOSS AM CRUSH THE BONDAGES! TAKES CHARGE IN A SPACE BOAT! NOW SQUIDMEN WORKS AT *ME!*

OCTOBOSS WANTS WHAT? WANTS OCTOBOSS HOME! FISHY MANS HAS MACHINES FOR SEND OCTOBOSS TO HOME. AM TAKE MACHINE, AM GO TO HOME, AM SHOW PEOPLE OCTOBOSS *AM* TOO MEANEST! TOO MEANEST BY FAR!

ATLANTIS ARE STAGING GROUND AT *ULTIMATE REVENGE!*

DUDE, YOU'RE TOTALLY IGNORING US!

KRA-DOOM!

SORRY, BRIT. NORMALLY I PUNCH HARDER, BUT ALL THIS WATER IS MAKING MY HAIR VERY HEAVY.

HEY, *UH*, DON'T SWEAT IT. *NICE* ONE.

BLZAT!

NO! DON'T KILL ME YET!

WHY SO SCARED, YOUR MAJESTY? DON'T YOU KNOW I'M BULLETPROOF?

B--BUT THESE ARE *LASER* GUNS!

HEY, NEW GUY! YOU NEED A HAND? I KNOW THE OCEAN FLOOR IS PROBABLY NOT THE BEST ENVIRONMENT FOR THROWING BOOMERANGS.

NO WORRIES, MATE.

ME AM NO DEFEATED EASILY SO!

YOU'D BE SURPRISED WHAT I CAN DO WITH THESE THINGS.

Ka-BOOM!

Ka-BOOM!

Ka-BOOM!

I'M JUST FINE AND DANDY.

THAT... THAT'S PRETTY *COOL*, MAN.

FEEL WRATH OF MYSELF! OCTOBOSS WILL STOP ALL LIVES!

ME AM HATE!

KRIAH!

MAN, I HAD A BIT OF TROUBLE LEARNING THE LANGUAGES OF THIS PLANET-- BUT YOU SHOULD REALLY TRY HARDER!

HOW'S YOUR TIMING? DESPITE THIS GUY'S INCOMPREHENSIBLE BOASTING--I THINK WE'VE GOT HIM ON THE ROPES.

WRAKK!!

OH, DUDE, ARE YOU THINKING OF SOME KIND OF SIMULTANEOUS PUNCH THING?

YES, ACTUALLY.

RAD!

KRAK!

ME AM NOT--

CHOOM!

ME AND BRIT ARE TOTALLY DEFEATING A DUDE TOGETHER!!

ICING ON THE CAKE, MATE!

KABOOM!

THIS GUY'S NOT GETTING UP.

GOOD. LET'S ROUND ALL THE BAD GUYS UP, CECIL SHOULD BE SENDING A TRANSPORT TO--

LETHAN, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU *DOING?*

OVERKILL, KABOOMERANG.

THESE LITTLE GUYS ARE JUST GIVING UP.

YOU HAVE ***SHAMED*** ME IN FRONT OF MY OWN KINGDOM, BRIT. YOU HAVE PROVEN ME INCAPABLE OF DEFENDING MY HOME OR MY PEOPLE. BY YOUR STRENGTH AND COURAGE, YOU HAVE WARDED OFF THE GREATEST THREAT ATLANTIS HAS EVER KNOWN.

AND BY THE LAW OF MY UNDERWATER PEOPLE, THAT MEANS--

--THE SIX OF YOU, THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE, ARE THE ***NEW KINGS OF ATLANTIS!***

YOU SIX WILL SHARE THE THRONE THAT RULES ALL OF THE EARTH'S OCEANS, BUT, EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY...

...AND MORE PERSONALLY DEVASTATING TO ME...

...YOU WILL ALL SHARE THE BED OF MY FORMER QUEEN, AQUARIA.

THIS IS ***NOT*** GOOD.

NOT GOOD AT ALL.

TAMPICO, MEXICO.

HARLEY

Hugo's

EL PACOPE

HOT N THE SASA

Conrad

ANOTHER.*

TYSON TEQUILLA

*TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH.

ANOTHER!

WHAT'S THIS?

IT'S YOUR WIFE, SIR.

SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

YOU MEAN EX-WIFE. YOU TELL THAT WOMAN TO DIE.

AND THEN BRING ME ANOTHER BOTTLE.

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, HOMBRE?

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH DRESSING UP LIKE EL CHUPACABRA?!

THAT'S DANGEROUS. DON'T LIKE YOU MAKING THE MAN LOOK BAD.

I AM DRESSED LIKE THIS, MY FRIENDS...

...BECAUSE I *AM* EL CHUPACABRA.

NOW PLEASE...

...LEAVE ME BE.

I AM GOING THROUGH A BAD PERIOD IN MY LIFE.

VERY SORRY, SIR. WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY.

SORRY TO BOTHER--

FRANCISCO, MY OLD FRIEND.

I HEARD ABOUT WHAT MARIA HAS PUT YOU THROUGH... I'M SO VERY SORRY.

I COULD USE YOUR HELP. PLEASE, LET ME TAKE YOU AWAY FROM ALL THIS.

SKRROSSSH!

FOOLISH! AM NOT OCTOBOSS YET BEATED!

YOU! *YOU* AM FISHY BOSS! GIVE AT ME THE TELETRANSPORT MACHINE FOR KEEPS, BUDDY!

WHAT? THIS CEREMONY WAS TO TRANSFER-- NO! I--I'M NOT--

NO! I'M NOT THE AQUARUS ANYMORE! *THEY* ARE! I'M NOT--

GRRARGH!

UNGH!

SOK!

WHA--?

I--I AM THE FISHY BOSS! I AM AQUARUS! KING OF ATLANTIS, DESTROYER OF OCTOBOSS!

BOO-YAH!

THERE'S THE MAN I MARRIED! THERE'S THE TRUE MONARCH OF ATLANTIS! HAIL THE CONQUERING HERO!

OCTOBOS AM BEATED... AT LAST!

UNHHHH...

LONG LIVE THE KING! LONG LIVE AQUARUS! LONG LIVE ATLANTIS!

OKAY, WELL... LOOKS LIKE WE WEREN'T REALLY NEEDED HERE AFTER ALL THEN.

GRR! ME AM OCTOBOSS! FARTS OF ME SMELL FROM SARDINES! GRR!

KNOCK IT OFF, MARTIAN. THAT'S *MORE* THAN ENOUGH.

ATLANTIS GUARDIANS LOG

YOU GOT IT, BOSS! PRETTY GOOD IMPRESSION, THOUGH, RIGHT?

GOOD ENOUGH TO FOOL THE PEOPLE OF ATLANTIS, GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.

HEY, CECIL. THINGS ARE TAKEN CARE OF. THE *REAL* OCTOBOSS IS PROBABLY HALF-WAY TO YOU ALREADY. WE WERE ABLE TO TURN HIM OVER TO YOUR MEN WHILE WE WERE LEFT ALONE TO PREPARE FOR OUR INDUCTION CEREMONY.

AND WE EVEN DID IT WITHOUT UPSETTING THE DELICATE BALANCE OF ATLANTEAN POLITICAL POWER. FOR MORE THAN ABOUT FIVE MINUTES, I MEAN.

HURRY BACK, BOYS.

I'VE GOT A COUPLE OF NEW ADDITIONS TO THE TEAM WHO ARE JUST *DYING* TO MEET YOU.

WHERE...?

WHAT OF--?

KROOM!

WHO AM YOU?!

OCTOBOSS DEMAND RELEASE!

RELAX, PAL--I'M ON YOUR SIDE.

WE'RE GOING TO BE LANDING SOON. DO TRY NOT TO TEAR THE SHIP APART BEFORE THEN.

THERE AM MANY OF YOU?

HOW?

NAME'S MULTI-PAUL.

DOUBLES ARE MY THING.

WHAT YOU WANT WITH I?

YOU'LL SEE.

OCTOBOSS, WELCOME...

YOU DO NOT BELONG IN THIS WORLD AND IT IS *THEY* WHO RESTRICT YOUR ACTIONS, LIMIT YOUR PROGRESS. I SEE IN YOU GREAT AMBITION.

AMBITION WE CAN NURTURE AND ALLOW TO THRIVE. YOU WILL BE INDUCTED INTO *THE ORDER.*

THIS WORLD IS NOT YOUR OWN AND THE CITIZEN *FEARS* YOU BECAUSE OF THAT.

I BELIEVE YOU WILL MAKE AN EXCELLENT ADDITION TO OUR ORGANIZATION.



GUARDING THE GLOBE
VOL. 1 #3



VISION, AN INDEPENDENT ART GALLERY IN LOS ANGELES.

ZANDALE RANDOLPH

Getty

FUNKY DONUTS

2.89
2.79
2.69

BRIT! AND YOU MUST BE JESSICA! COME RIGHT IN, MAKE YOURSELVES AT HOME. THANKS SO MUCH FOR COMING.

NO TROUBLE, WE'RE HAPPY TO GET AWAY FROM BRIT JUNIOR FOR AN EVENING.

AND DOING ANYTHING THAT'S NOT SEEING SOME DUMB ACTION MOVIE IS ALWAYS A PLEASURE. THIS IS ALREADY THE BEST DATE WE'VE BEEN ON IN A WHILE.

AND CONGRATS ON THE GALLERY SHOWING... I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY!

AND WHO'S THIS LOVELY LADY?

THIS IS OUTRUN, OUR NEW RECRUIT FROM SOUTH AFRICA. OUTRUN, THIS IS ZANDALE RANDOLPH, BETTER KNOWN AS BULLETPROOF, AND HIS GIRLFRIEND... CARLA, WAS IT?

CHARMED, ZANDALE.

BRIT! HEY! CAN I TALK TO YOU FOR A SECOND?

OH, WHAT NOW? I'M TAKING THE NIGHT OFF, DON'T TELL ME THIS IS WORK RELATED.

WE MIGHT HAVE A BIT OF A SITUATION.

YOU KNOW HOW WE ORIGINALLY THOUGHT THIS FUNCTION WOULD BE A GOOD WAY FOR OUTRUN AND EL CHUPACABRA TO MEET EVERYONE IN A CASUAL SETTING...

WE HADN'T SEEN THE KIND OF PHOTOGRAPHY THAT BULLETPROOF DOES...

HONESTLY, DONALD, YOU NEED TO SACK UP. IT'S JUST AN ART SHOW. WHAT COULD BE SO--

OH.

WOW.

ZANDALE IS A LUCKY MAN.

NO COMMENT.

I LIKE LOOKING AT HUMAN LADY PARTS.

EH...

HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP, FRANCISCO?

I NEED ANOTHER DRINK.

NO, YOU DON'T. TRUST ME.

OOH, WHAT'S EVEN GOING ON IN THIS ONE? IS--IS HE... HURTING HER?

EITHER WAY, MATE. SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE QUITE ENJOYS IT.

OUTRUN, I AM SO SORRY. THIS HAS GOT TO BE THE WORST POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION TO THE TEAM FOR YOU. ZANDALE'S A GREAT GUY, I HAD NO IDEA THE PHOTOGRAPHY WAS GOING TO BE ANYTHING LIKE THIS.

LIKE WHAT? SO PASSIONATE AND INVIGORATING? SO FULL OF UNREPENTANT EROS?

I'M GOING TO *BUY* ONE.

AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION IN UTAH.

THE SECRET MOUNTAIN BASE OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE.

VOOSH!

WHAT'S THE MATTER THERE, CHAP? LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HAVING A BIT OF A TIME.

OH, UH, NO--I'M FINE. REALLY. NOT SAD OR ANYTHING. YOU'RE OUTRUN, RIGHT? FIGURED YOU'D STILL BE AT BULLETPROOF'S SHOW.

GOT BORED FOR A SECOND, WANTED TO RUN OVER AND CHECK OUT THE CENTRAL BASE--I'LL GO BACK OVER IN A BIT.

THEY NOT LET YOU GO? BECAUSE OF YOUR LOOKS? THAT'S HARD--GUESS IT WOULD KEEP THE REST OF THEM FROM GOING OUT IN THEIR CIVILIAN IDENTITIES IF YOU WERE THERE.

THAT'S UNDERSTANDABLE. BUT CHEER UP--YOU'RE TOO LOVABLE TO BE SAD.

BE SEEING YOU--

VOOSH!

BUT THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL...

...I MISS MY FAMILY.

THE OCEAN FLOOR. CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE SECRET ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS THE ORDER.

I KNEW THIS WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!

YOU WERE JUST WAITING FOR THE PERFECT MOMENT TO STRIKE!

CHOOM!

HOW THEY WOULD LET YOU REMAIN A MEMBER OF THE ORDER AFTER THE INSULTS YOU'VE DEALT ME IS UNFATHOMABLE!

DEATH IS TOO GOOD FOR YOU!

MIGHT WANT TO GO BACK INTO YOUR BODY, OLD MAN--YOUR BODYGUARD IS DOING A PISS POOR JOB OF PROTECTING IT!

ENOUGH!!

KROOM!

I WILL NOT TOLERATE INFIGHTING WITHIN OUR ORGANIZATION.

CONTINUE THIS AT THE RISK OF YOUR LIVES.

IF I AM TO WORK WITH THIS CLOWN, I *DEMAND* COMPENSATION--I DEMAND A PORTION OF HIS TERRITORY IN RETURN FOR THE SHAME HE'S DEALT ME.

THIS ONE IS A LOOSE CANNON, HE--

DEMAND?! DO YOU REALLY FEEL YOU ARE IN A POSITION TO MAKE DEMANDS OF ME?!

TITAN GOT INTO THIS ORGANIZATION BY TAKING OVER MACHINE HEAD'S TERRITORY--AND YET, MACHINE HEAD IS NOT THE ONE CAUSING TROUBLE.

ARE YOU AWARE THAT I AM STILL LOOKING FOR TERRITORY TO GIVE MACHINE HEAD? DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I AM SAYING TO YOU?

Y--YES, SET--I UNDERSTAND.

GOOD. I'VE CALLED A MEETING. THE HEADS OF ALL THE TERRITORIES WILL BE HERE SOON.

I EXPECT YOU *BOTH* TO BE ON YOUR BEST BEHAVIOR.

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK, BRIT? STATELY ENOUGH FOR YOU?

IT'S GOT A GOOD VIEW, THAT'S FOR SURE--BUT, UH...

YOU DON'T THINK THIS SPOT IS A LITTLE CONSPICUOUS FOR A SECRET BASE?

WELL, YOU KNOW. HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT AND ALL THAT. THAT'S KIND OF THE PHILOSOPHY BEHIND ALL OF THE PLANNED SATELLITE BASES AROUND THE WORLD.

I'M STILL IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF EGYPT TO SEE IF WE CAN HOLLOW OUT THE SPHINX AND PUT A JET HANGAR IN THERE.

HAH! I CAN'T EVEN TELL IF YOU'RE KIDDING. YOU'D REALLY DO IT, WOULDN'T YOU?

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I'M NOT KIDDING ABOUT--IF YOU THINK PEOPLE MIGHT NOTICE US HERE, WAIT UNTIL THEY SEE WHAT WE'RE BUILDING ON THE MOON.

THE MOON? HOLY CRAP, CECIL, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT--YOU HAVEN'T LOST ANY OF YOUR EDGE IN YOUR LATER YEARS.

THE WAY THE WORLD IS NOW, OLD FRIEND, IT NEEDS SOMEONE WITH AN EDGE.

ALL THESE CHANGES WE'VE BEEN MAKING--EXPANDING THE TEAM, BUILDING BASES AROUND THE WORLD--I THINK WE'RE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, BUT I FEEL LIKE WE'RE STILL ONE STEP BEHIND.

JEEZ, YOU'RE TELLING ME. WE'D PROBABLY HAVE BETTER LUCK TAKING DOWN THE WOULD-BE WORLD CONQUERORS IF WE DIDN'T HAVE TO STOP AND BEAT UP GIANT MONSTERS IN BETWEEN.

I THINK I SPENT MORE TIME WITH OCTOBOSS THIS WEEK THAN I DID WITH THE WIFE AND KID.

HOW ARE JESSICA AND BRIT JUNIOR, ANYWAY?

WAY BETTER SINCE WE FOUND OUT JUNIOR INHERITED MY POWERS. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW FREEING IT IS TO UN-BABYPROOF A HOUSE?

WHAT ABOUT YOU, OLD MAN? YOU EVER GOING TO SETTLE DOWN AND GIVE US CECIL: THE NEXT GENERATION?

I MEAN, YOU'VE GOT SOME KIND OF SPECIAL LADY IN YOUR LIFE, RIGHT? SURELY THERE'S SOMEONE YOU'RE RUNNING OFF TO ALL THOSE TIMES YOU DISAPPEAR UNANNOUNCED.

WELL, NOT THAT IT'S--WAIT, HOLD IT.

BRIT--YOU'RE NEEDED.

UPSTATE NEW YORK.

SLAM!!

ARGGGGH!

HEADS UP! REINFORCEMENTS ARE ON THEIR WAY!

OH, THANK GOD.

I TAKE IT YOU'RE THAT GUY, WOLF-MAN. SEEN YOU ON THE NEWS.

GOOD GUESS.

=KOFF!=

PLEASE TELL ME YOU'RE CECIL'S GUYS.

GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE, YEAH. WHAT'S THE SITUATION?

HEY, IF WE ALL JUMPED OUT, WHO THE HELL IS FLYING THE PLANE?

I THINK THERE IS AN AUTOMATIC PILOT THAT TAKES THE PLANE TO OUR NEAREST BASE IF EVERYONE GETS OUT WHILE IT IS FLYING.

THAT'S GREAT. IT IS COMING BACK TO GET US, RIGHT?

THESE NASTY CREATURES ARE THE REANIMATED BITS OF A MUCH LARGER CREATURE I BUSTED UP NAMED GORGG.*

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THESE ARE THE SMALLER VERSION, BUT THEY'RE NO JOKE. THEY TOOK DOWN A CAPES TEAM BACK IN THE CITY, AND THEY FOUGHT MY PLATOON OF WEREWOLVES TO A STANDSTILL.

WE'D STILL BE FIGHTING, BUT--AS YOU CAN SEE--THE SUN CAME UP AND CHANGED ALL MY MEN BACK TO HUMAN FORM. THE ONLY REASON I CAN KEEP THIS FORM RIGHT NOW IS THE RESIDUAL LUNAR ENERGY STORED IN MY GAUNTLETS. AND THAT WON'T LAST LONG...

*SEE THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN: VOLUME 4 FOR DETAILS.

ANY IDEA WHERE THEY CAME FROM?

YEAH. A CRIMINAL LUNATIC CALLED THE FACE RAISED THE ORIGINAL MONSTER FROM HIS PRISON UNDER STONEHENGE WITH SOME KIND OF CEREMONY.

GORGG ROSE UP AND MADE HIS WAY ACROSS THE ATLANTIC IN ORDER TO GET REVENGE ON THE DESCENDANTS OF THE FOLKS WHO TRAPPED HIM IN THE FIRST PLACE.

THAT'S ALL I NEED TO KNOW. LET'S GO KNOCK SOME HEADS AND GET YOUR MEN OUT OF THERE!

CRAP! YOU WEREN'T KIDDING! THESE THINGS ARE FAST!

WRAMM!

KRAKK!

NEED A HAND, SAMSON?

TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH.

HAD SOME BUSINESS WITH CECIL OVERSEAS. GOT HERE AS FAST AS I COULD. DOESN'T LOOK LIKE I MISSED ANYTHING TOO FUN, THOUGH.

LET'S SEE HOW MANY LICKS IT TAKES TO GET TO THE CENTER OF THIS TOOTSIE POP!

Ka-BOOM!

Ka-BOOM!

Ka-BOOM!

NICE SHOOTING, TEX. WHAT IS THAT, TELEKINESIS?

YEAH, SPOT ON. LOW GRADE, BUT I FIND A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY.

YOU DIDN'T THINK I JUST CHUCKED THOSE THINGS AND CROSSED MY FINGERS, DID YOU? THEY'RE BLOODY BOMBS!

KRRSSHHH!

OH, GOD! WE'RE DEAD!

HELLO THERE. WHAT SAY WE GET YOU LOT SOMEWHERE SAFER, EH?

HOW DOES *IOWA* STRIKE YOU?

HEY, GUYS! I THINK I HAVE GOT ONE ON THE ROPES!

NICE!

ONE DOWN, ONLY FIVE OR SO TO GO-- RIGHT, GUYS?

WHOA!

KRAKA-DOOM!

THIS DOESN'T LOOK GOOD...

HUMANS! PREPARE TO MEET ANNIHILATION AT THE HANDS OF GORGG!

BEHOLD! GORGG, WHOLE AGAIN!

AW, CRAP.

THIS IS NO GOOD. THIS IS HOW HE WAS WHEN HE FIRST ROSE UP AND I BEAT HIM BACK IN THE CITY-- WHICH, IN RETROSPECT, WAS PROBABLY MORE *LUCK* THAN SKILL.

I JUST DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS, GUYS. WE'RE GOING TO NEED A MORE LASTING SOLUTION THAN JUST PUNCHING HIM AND HOPING HE FALLS APART.

YOU LET US KNOW WHEN YOU COME UP WITH SOMETHING. IN THE MEANTIME, BREAKING HIM INTO SMALLER PIECES SEEMS GOOD FOR THE SHORT TERM.

SLAM!

SAMSON! HOLD ON!

HUMANS! YOUR ONLY OPTION IS DEATH! YOU ARE INSIGNIFICANT IN THE PRESENCE OF GORGG!

LIKE ANTS! LITTLE MORE!

KRINK!

DAMMIT! HE CRUSHED MY STUPID JET GLOVE!

MY GOD. THIS IS AN UNMITIGATED *DISASTER.*

BRIT!

HEY!

AH! WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?

THE MIDWEST, DROPPING OFF SOME OF YOUR MEN. YOU SAID THIS THING WAS FREED FROM SOME KIND OF IMPRISONMENT, RIGHT? HOW'D YOU DO THAT?

WE MOVED SOME OF THE STONES IN THE STONEHENGE MONUMENT--

HAH! WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO *BEFORE?*

CECIL!

OUTRUN, WHERE ARE YOU? GPS SHOWS YOU WAY OFF-SITE!

I'M EN ROUTE TO THE SALISBURY PLAIN. I THINK I'VE FIGURED OUT HOW TO STOP GORGG PERMANENTLY.

SALISBURY--? THE STONEHENGE SITE?

THAT'S THE ONE! MEET ME THERE, AND BRING A COUPLE OF THOSE BIG, BURLY FELLAS FROM THE TEAM, WOULD YOU?

GOD, MY HEAD. HOW MUCH DID I DRINK LAST NIGHT?

I CAN'T BELIEVE I SLEPT THROUGH THE DAMN ACTION ALERT.

OUTRUN! WE'RE HERE AS YOU ASKED-- NOW WHAT'S THE SITUATION?

ACCORDING TO WOLF-MAN, THE WAY GORGG WAS REANIMATED IN THE FIRST PLACE IS THAT SOME BLOKE CALLED THE FACE MOVED THESE TWO STONES, SETTING GORGG FREE FROM CENTURIES OF IMPRISONMENT.

SO YOU THINK IF WE PUT THESE STONES BACK IN THEIR ORIGINAL CONFIGURATION, WHATEVER SPELL WAS TRAPPING GORGG IN THE FIRST PLACE WILL GO BACK INTO EFFECT.

IT'S THE BEST THEORY WE'VE GOT AT THE MOMENT, AND DEFINITELY WORTH A SHOT.

GOOD WORK, OUTRUN. YETI, BULLETPROOF-- YOU PICK UP THESE STONES AND I'LL RECONFIGURE THE PORTAL TO OPEN UP ON THE GORGG SITE.

I TELL YOU, CHIEF, THIS ISN'T HELPING MY HANGOVER AT ALL.

WELL, I HOPE YOU'VE LEARNED SOMETHING.

INSOLENT CUR! GORGG WILL--

EH?

PLAY TIME IS OVER, MONSTER! NOW IT IS TIME FOR YOUR NAP!

NO!

NO! YOU SEEK TO IMPRISON ME AGAIN! BUT GORGG IS INVINCIBLE! GORGG WILL NOT BE VANQUISHED!

SWAK!

BROTHER, YOU PICKED THE WRONG TIME TO MESS WITH ME. I'VE GOT A *KILLER* HEADACHE--

--LET'S SEE IF I CAN'T RETURN THE FAVOR!

KRAKA-DOOM!

NOOO!

NOOOOOO! NEVER AGAI--

BA-DOOOM!!!

IT'S BEAUTIFUL.

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING IS THAT IT'S ALL *OVER* NOW.

OVER FOR YOU, MAYBE. YOU'RE NOT THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO HAVE TO EXPLAIN THIS TO THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER.

THE OCEAN FLOOR. CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE SECRET ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS THE ORDER.

I'VE HEARD IT SAID, EVERYONE IS THE HERO OF THEIR OWN STORY.

THE THOUGHT IS THAT EVEN THE MOST VILE VILLAIN BELIEVES HIS ACTIONS TO BE RIGHT AND THINKS OF HIMSELF AS "GOOD."

I AM HERE TO TELL YOU, RIGHT NOW, THAT I AM *EVIL*.

I AM GREEDY, SELFISH, I DO NOT CARE FOR THE PLIGHT OF OTHERS. THE CITIZEN WALKS AMONG US BUT HE IS NOT ONE OF US. HE GOES ABOUT HIS DAILY LIFE UNAWARE OF THE DANGERS THAT SURROUND HIM.

THE DANGERS PEOPLE LIKE *US* BRING TO HIS DOORSTEP.

WE ARE BETTER THAN THE CITIZEN. WE ARE AWARE OF THE EVILS OF THE WORLD AND WE *CELEBRATE* THEM... *PROFIT* FROM THEM.

MONEY AND *POWER*. THAT IS OUR DESIRE.

THAT IS THE FOUNDATION OF *THE ORDER*... THAT IS WHAT BRINGS US TOGETHER.

I LOOK BEFORE ME, AND I SEE A POWER THE WORLD HAS NOT YET EXPERIENCED.

A POWER THAT COULD BRING ABOUT THE END OF ALL THINGS.

MISTER LIU, HEAD OF OUR ASIAN TERRITORIES.

TITAN FROM NEW YORK CITY.

EMBRACE, WHO MANAGES ALL OF THE MIDDLE EAST FROM HER STRONGHOLD IN ISRAEL.

THE WALKING DREAD, CONTROLLING EASTERN EUROPE'S CRIME SYNDICATES FROM POLAND.

MACHINE HEAD, NOW BASED IN LOS ANGELES AFTER NEGOTIATING A TRUCE WITH TITAN, WHO TOOK OVER HIS TERRITORY IN NEW YORK.

THE FACE IN COMMAND OF CANADA, AND EXPANDING HIS INFLUENCE INTO THE NORTH WESTERN UNITED STATES.

INSOMNIAC, KEEPING A WATCHFUL EYE ON OUR DEALINGS IN EGYPT AND NORTHERN AFRICA.

RED EYE, OF BRAZIL, HEAD OF ALL CRIME IN THE SOUTH AMERICAN CONTINENT.

WAR WOMAN, WHO HAS TAKEN OVER THE ISLE OF AMAZONIA WHICH HAS BECOME A USEFUL STAGING GROUND IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA.

SLAYING MANTIS, OUR MAN IN IRELAND.

AND OCTOBOSS, WHO WILL BE EXPANDING THE ORDER'S REACH INTO THIS PLANET'S OCEANS.

IT'S TIME TO TAKE THINGS TO THE NEXT LEVEL. RETURN TO YOUR REGIONS, CARRY OUT MY ORDERS... SHAKE THE VERY CORE OF THIS GLOBE.

IT IS TIME, MY MINIONS...

...LET'S TAKE SOME LIVES.



GUARDING THE GLOBE
VOL. 1 #4

RANSOM
+fco

CITIZENS OF THE WORLD, I THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME. I WILL MAKE MY MESSAGE BRIEF.

AS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE, I KNOW THAT THE WORLD IS SOMETIMES A VERY DANGEROUS PLACE, AND WE HAVE NOT ALWAYS BEEN THERE FOR YOU.

THAT IS WHY I'VE COME BEFORE YOU TODAY TO REPORT THAT THE GUARDIANS ARE EXPANDING OUR ROSTER AND OUR REACH. WE'LL BE STATIONED IN ALL CORNERS OF THE GLOBE IN NEW SATELLITE BASES PLACED IN STRATEGIC LOCATIONS WORLDWIDE.

THIS EXPANSION SHOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO RESPOND TO ALL MANNER OF THREATS IN A MUCH MORE TIMELY FASHION.

AT THIS TIME, I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THE FIRST ROUND OF NEW RECRUITS THAT WE'VE GATHERED.

CAST IRON, FROM YUGOSLAVIA.

KABOOMERANG, FROM AUSTRALIA.

OUTRUN, FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

EL CHUPACABRA, FROM MEXICO.

YETI, FROM NEPAL.

PEGASUS, FROM RUSSIA.

KID THOR, FROM CANADA.

LE BRUSIER, FROM FRANCE.

JAPANDROID, FROM JAPAN.

AND KNOCKOUT, FROM THE UNITED STATES.

AGAIN, I THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME. OUR REPRESENTATIVE DONALD FERGUSON WILL ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME... UH... I'VE GOT A GLOBE TO GUARD.

REALLY? I'M THE PUBLIC FACE OF THIS WHOLE ORGANIZATION?

YOU'RE A FOUNDING MEMBER, THAT HOLDS A LOT OF WEIGHT. AND YOU DID *GOOD* UP THERE.

I ALMOST READ THE CARD WRONG. WASN'T THERE SUPPOSED TO BE ANOTHER ONE? FROM CHINA? WHAT WAS HIS NAME?

I WAS TOLD BEFORE THE PRESS CONFERENCE STARTED THAT BULLETPROOF WAS HAVING TROUBLE LOCATING HIM. HIS NAME WAS SOMETHING *WEIRD*...

BEST TIGER!

I'VE BEEN COUNTING YOUR BULLETS AND I KNOW WITH ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY THAT YOU ARE DOWN TO YOUR LAST AND FINAL ROUND.

YOU HAVE NO HOPE TO DEFEAT US.

PREPARE TO DIE!

PRETTY & NICE GET YOUNG

ONE IS ENOUGH.

BLAM!

YEAAGH!

SPAK!

PING!

SPAK!

PING!

SPAK!

SPAK!

SHLAKK!

CLANK!

YOU WILL BLEED OUT IN ONE HOUR.

POLICE ARE MINUTES AWAY.

DID YOU READ THIS?

POISSON PARADISE

BEST TIGER! I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU. I STOPPED AT YOUR LAIR, AND YOUR ASSISTANT SAID YOU WERE IN THIS AREA.

I THINK WE'VE MISSED THE PRESS CONFERENCE... BUT... WOW... I SAW MOST OF THIS FROM A DISTANCE AND...

DID YOU JUST TAKE ALL THESE GUYS DOWN WITH ONE BULLET?

AND, CRAP... I READ YOUR FILE, I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE BLIND!

NOT BLIND.

BUT WHY DO YOU WEAR THE, UH...

MORE CHALLENGE.

THE UNDERWATER HEADQUARTERS OF THE ORDER.

WE HAVE CONFIRMATION FROM ALL MEMBERS. THEY ARE IN PLACE AND AWAITING YOUR COMMAND.

EVERYTHING HAS GONE EXACTLY AS YOU PLANNED, A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE GUARDIANS HAS BEEN MADE... AS YOU DIRECTED, WE ARE READY TO MAKE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR OWN.

WHEN WOULD YOU LIKE THEM TO COMMENCE?

NOW...

...THE TIME IS *NOW.*

CHICAGO.

THAT'S IT--LIKE THAT! I'VE GOT THIS ONE, YOU JUST WORRY ABOUT *TITAN!*

LONDON.

I WILL *MURDER* EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU!

NO ONE IS SAFE FROM *THE WALKING DREAD!*

WISH ME LUCK...

YOU KNOW I'VE GOT YOUR BACK.

MADRID.

MANTIS STING!

VWOPP!!

SYDNEY.

YOU AM NO DEFEAT, THIS TIME!

I CAN--SEE THAT!

CAIRO.

I'M THINKING, ALL DAY, EVERY DAY! EVERY MINUTE OF EVERY DAY!

I'M THE INSOMNIAC! *I NEVER SLEEP!*

I HAVE ALREADY FIGURED YOU OUT--TELEKINETIC, YOU CONTROL THE BOOMERANGS WITH YOUR MIND--YOU HIDE BEHIND THE SCHTICK SO THAT YOUR TRUE POWERS ARE A SURPRISE.

WON'T WORK ON ME--I'M TOO *SMART* FOR YOU!

YEAH, YEAH.

KEEP TALKING, MATE.

RIO DE JANEIRO.

I DON'T USUALLY GET MY HANDS DIRTY, BUT FOR THIS... I MAKE AN EXCEPTION!

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?!

DON'T KNOW-- THE WORLD HAS JUST GONE CRAZY. THERE'S A SLEW OF THREATS SPREADING ACROSS THE GLOBE.

THIS SEEMS *COORDINATED.*

OKAY, THAT SOUNDS REALLY BAD.

HOW'S THIS ONE?

MS. POPPER? SHE'S *FINE,* JUST TIRED.

CECIL'S GOT HER USING HER POWERS TO HELP OUT WITH ALL OUR TELEPORTATION. WE HAD TO GET FIFTEEN PEOPLE TO SIX DIFFERENT LOCATIONS. SHE'LL BE BACK AT ONE-HUNDRED PERCENT IN AN HOUR, TOPS.

WAIT A MINUTE--WHY IS KABOOMERANG OUT THERE ON HIS OWN?

WE'RE NOT SPREAD SO THIN WE'VE GOT PEOPLE GOING ON SOLO MISSIONS...

HE'S NOT SOLO. EL CHUPACABRA IS...

...*NOT THERE.* THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT. I SENT THEM IN. THEY WERE BOTH AT THE EGYPT GUARDIAN STATION TOGETHER.

POPPER, CAN YOU GET ME THERE?

YEAH, I THINK SO. JUST NEEDED A MINUTE.

EGYPT. SATELLITE BASE FOR THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE.

UNGHH... MY FREAKIN' HEAD, MAN.

POP!

TAKING A LITTLE HAIR OF THE DOG, CHUPACABRA?

GUH!

BRIT? YOU SCARED THE HELL OUT OF ME, MAN.

YOU'RE SCARED, HUH? YOU WORTHLESS SACK OF--

HOW DO YOU THINK KABOOMERANG FEELS? YOU THINK MAYBE HE'S SCARED OUT THERE FIGHTING ON HIS OWN? YOU'RE ASSIGNED TO THIS STATION--YOU'RE ON DUTY FOR CHRIST'S SAKE!

THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE!

I'M SORRY, IT'S--MY WIFE...

YOU'RE PATHETIC.

GOD... YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW THAT?

DEEP BELOW THE PENTAGON, THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY, LED BY CECIL STEDMAN.

UNITED STATES PENTAGON

Parking in Rear

CECIL!

BRIT? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HE--

CHUPACABRA IS OFF THE TEAM. TAKE HIM OFF THE TEAM BEFORE I *KILL* HIM.

THE MAN WAS SO HUNGOVER HE COULDN'T MAKE A MISSION! WHEN HE *DOES* SHOW UP TO MISSIONS, HE'S STILL DRUNK!

HE'S A DANGER TO HIMSELF, TO CIVILIANS, AND TO THE TEAM! HE'S GOING TO GET SOMEONE HURT! AND WHEN HE DOES, YOU'RE NOT EVEN GOING TO BE ABLE TO HEAR ME SAY "*I TOLD YOU SO*" OVER THE SOUND OF ME BREAKING HIS BONES!

DON'T PUT ME IN THIS POSITION, BRIT. YOU *KNOW* WHAT I OWE THAT MAN. YOU WERE THERE, BRIT.

WE *ALL* OWE HIM.

HE'S ON THIN GODDAMN ICE, CECIL.

YOU NEED TO GET HIM STRAIGHT-- NOW.

UTAH, THE CENTRAL BASE OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE.

SO HERE'S THE BAD NEWS, TEAM: NOBODY GETS TO EASE INTO BEING A GUARDIAN.

IT'S NOT LIKE SCHOOL WHERE ON THE FIRST DAY YOU JUST GET THE CLASS SCHEDULE AND PLAY ICE-BREAKING GAMES. SORRY.

UNFORTUNATELY, YOU'VE ALL BEEN THROWN HEADFIRST INTO SOME SERIOUS BUSINESS.

WE'VE KNOWN FOR SOME TIME THAT ORGANIZED SUPER CRIME EXISTS. WE'VE SEEN IT ON A LOCAL LEVEL WITH GUYS LIKE MACHINE HEAD AND HIS CREW, SO WE'VE LET LOCAL GUYS, LIKE THE CREW AT CAPES INCORPORATED, DEAL WITH IT IN THAT WAY.

WE'D HEARD BUZZ THAT WITH THE ASCENSION OF TITAN TO THE LEADERSHIP OF MACHINE HEAD'S OLD OPERATION THAT THE ORGANIZATION WAS SPREADING ITS INFLUENCE NATIONALLY.

BUT ALL THESE ATTACKS ACROSS THE WORLD, HITTING AT THE SAME TIME, EACH ONE OF THESE MONSTERS ACTING LIKE THEY WERE *EXPECTING* US?

THAT'S NO COINCIDENCE. ALL THESE GUYS KILLING INNOCENTS, KICKING OUR BUTTS AND RUNNING OFF, STILL AT LARGE? THAT'S SOMETHING ELSE.

THE BAD GUYS ARE GOING GLOBAL, JUST LIKE US. THE DIFFERENCE IS THEY'RE NOT DOING TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCES TELLING THE WORLD WHAT THEY'RE DOING.

THAT MEANS THEY HAVE US AT A *DISADVANTAGE.*

SO WHEN YOU GET SPLIT UP INTO TEAMS, SPREAD OUT OVER THESE FANCY NEW BASES, IT MEANS YOU WATCH YOUR ASS, AND YOU WATCH YOUR NEIGHBOR'S ASS.

BECAUSE THINGS, I BELIEVE, WERE JUST RAISED TO THE NEXT LEVEL.

THE MOON, SATELLITE BASE FOR THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE.

NO, SERIOUSLY. I MISS YOU. I WISH THEY HADN'T SPLIT US UP.

YEAH, RIGHT. LIKE YOU'VE EVEN NOTICED I'M NOT THERE WITH ALL THE FUN YOU'RE HAVING ON THE MOON.

HAH. THIS PLACE KIND OF SUCKS, ACTUALLY. I MEAN, YEAH, IT'S AWESOME THAT YOU'RE ***ON THE MOON***, BUT THE FACILITY IS KIND OF... BLAH.

AND IT'S NOT LIKE YOU GET TO RUN AROUND OUTSIDE ALL THE TIME.

SO YOU WOULD SAY THE PLACE HAS--

IF YOU MAKE A JOKE ABOUT THE MOON HAVING NO ATMOSPHERE, I BREAK UP WITH YOU IMMEDIATELY AND FOREVER.

JOKE WITHDRAWN.

WHERE DO THEY HAVE YOU NOW? YOU AT THE LONDON BASE, OR...?

THIS SIDE UP

NAH, I WAS IN LONDON A FEW DAYS AGO. I'M IN TOKYO NOW, WHICH IS PROBABLY MORE LIKE BEING ON ANOTHER PLANET THAN EVEN THE MOON BASE.

HOW DOES EVERYONE SEEM TO BE GETTING ALONG AS FAR AS YOU CAN TELL?

WELL, EVERY GROUP IS DIFFERENT, BUT--

--THINGS ARE PRETTY ***TENSE*** HERE.

OF COURSE, EVERYWHERE ELSE THE NEW MEMBERS SEEM TO BE GETTING ALONG PRETTY WELL--

"--MAYBE A LITTLE TOO WELL."

GIRL, YOU KNOW I'M TAKEN.

JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS, LOVE. BRIT SAID TO WATCH YOUR NEIGHBOR'S ASS.

LONDON, ENGLAND.

UTAH.

YOU LETTING ME WIN, ROOKIE?

SIR, YOU ARE A GREAT HERO OF GOOD REPUTATION WHO HONORS ME TO EVEN--

PLAY FOR REAL, NEWBIE.

I WIN!

BOO-YAH!

EGYPT.

UH, MISTER... TIGER? SIR? WOULD YOU LIKE TO...

AHEM.

AH. HMM. NEVERMIND.

LET'S SEE...DO YOU WANT THE CHICKEN AND BEEF CUTS IN GRAVY?

NO, OF COURSE. YOU ARE A FRENCHMAN AND HAVE A VERY REFINED PALATE. I WILL GET YOU THE VEAL, BARLEY AND AVOCADO.

WAOUH! WAOUH!

VAF!

YEAH, WE'RE GETTING ALONG HERE PRETTY WELL.

YOU PLAY VERY WELL FOR SUCH A LITTLE GIRL.

ACCORDING TO SOCIAL CONVENTION, I POLITELY ACCEPT YOUR WELL-INTENTIONED CONDESCENSION.

CHECK.

BUT IT'S STILL PRETTY BOR--

WEEEOOOO! WEEEOOOO!

HEY, WE GOT AN ACTION ALARM! YOUR STATION, TOO? MAYBE I'LL SEE YOU SOONER THAN WE THOUGHT!

IT TOOK YEARS--***YEARS*** OF RESEARCH AND PLANNING TO EVEN ***FIND*** THE FABLED LAND OF AMAZONIA!

YEARS OF TRAINING AND STRATEGIZING TO TAKE OVER THAT LAND AND ALL ITS ARMIES! BUT I DID IT AND NOW ***I'M BACK!***

BACK TO THE PLACE THE WOMAN I LOVED SPURNED HER HERITAGE FOR, THAT SHE ABANDONED THE PARADISE OF THE AMAZONS FOR!

THE PLACE THAT CHEWED HER UP AND SPIT HER OUT, LEAVING ONLY HER ***BLOODY CORPSE*** AS THANKS FOR ALL THE TIMES SHE SAVED IT!

BUT NO MORE! BECAUSE THE ***NEW WAR WOMAN*** HAS COME BACK TO ***TAKE REVENGE ON THE WORLD OF MEN!***

YAP, YAP, YAP.

ATTACK!

ALL RIGHT, TEAM--GO TIME!

JAPANDROID, YOU'RE ON RESCUE AND EVAC! GET THESE WOUNDED CIVILIANS OUT OF HERE AND LET US BRAWLERS GET DOWN TO BUSINESS!

ACKNOWLEDGED.

KRAKA-BOOM!

KRAK!

CHUPACABRA!

DAMMIT, THAT GUY NEEDS TO GET HIS HEAD IN THE GAME *NOW*, HE'S USELESS.

YEAH, I *BET*.

HE SAID HE WAS NOT FEELING VERY WELL.

AH, YES. THE ONE WHO MOCKED ME. I NOTICE YOU'VE BEEN IGNORING ME IN THIS FIGHT.

DO YOU THINK I'M LESS OF A THREAT THAN THESE MINDLESS HUNKS OF ROCK, JUST BECAUSE THEY LOOK LIKE *MEN?*

NO, LITTLE MAN! *I'M* THE ONE IN CONTROL OF *THEM!*

SMACK!

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

SHOOT AT ME ALL YOU WANT, *COWARDS!* YOU CAN'T STOP ME!

PRIME DIRECTIVE: "RESCUE AND EVAC"-- SUCCESSFULLY EXECUTED.

COIN-FIRING RIFLES OUT OF PARKING METERS, *HUH?* NICE WORK, ROOKIE. WOW.

THESE GUYS ARE UNBELIEVABLE! HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP, CAST IRON?

THE ENEMY IS FORMIDABLE, YES. BUT I SHALL PERSEVERE.

HMM. LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE IS BACK FOR ROUND TWO.

KRAK!

GUH!

COME ON, YOU-- YOU BASTARD!

I'VE FOUGHT-- FOUGHT TOUGHER THAN-- YOU!

YOU.

YOU'VE WRONGED A WOMAN AND YOUR HEART IS FULL OF LOATHING FOR HER.

YES, I--

HOW-- HOW DID YOU KNOW?

YOU STINK OF IT. IT SEEPS FROM YOUR PORES, LIKE THE ALCOHOL YOU DROWN YOURSELF IN TO NUMB YOUR PAIN.

MY PLEASURE!

FOR YOUR CRIMES AGAINST WOMANKIND, I SENTENCE YOU TO DEATH.

YES! YES, I--

PLEASE--

DO IT. END THIS MISERY.

CHUPACABRA!

NO! LEAVE--

GAAAUGH!

CLANKK!

CAST IRON!

DON'T... DON'T PULL IT OUT. THAT WILL ONLY... MAKE IT... WOR...

HANG ON, BUDDY. YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE IT. PERSEVERE, JUST LIKE YOU SAID.

COUNT YOUR LOSSES, PIGS.

I CLAIM THIS VICTORY IN THE NAME OF AMAZONIA. WE WILL MEET AGAIN.

CECIL! WE'VE GOT A MAN DOWN!

I NEED YOU TO POP IN A MED TEAM-- STAT!

POP!

DAMMIT!

GET OVER HERE--HE'S FADING FAST!

BRIT, I--

YOU BETTER HOPE HE SURVIVES, YOU WORTHLESS DRUNK!

HIS BLOOD IS ON YOUR HANDS.

"THIS IS THE WORST CASE SCENARIO."

UNITED STATES PENTAGON

Parking in Rear

IF YOU TAKE EVERY POSSIBILITY, EVERY VARIABLE, AND YOU FIGURE OUT THE WORST POSSIBLE THING THAT COULD HAPPEN, THAT IS WHAT WE HAVE ON OUR HANDS RIGHT NOW.

THEN THEY'RE ORGANIZED?

YOU BET YOUR ASS THEY'RE ORGANIZED!

THIS ISN'T JUST SOME FLUKE. IT'S NO COINCIDENCE THAT THESE SAME TACTICS ARE BEING USED AGAIN AND AGAIN--JUMP IN, DO DAMAGE, TAKE LIVES--NOW ***OUR OWN PEOPLE'S LIVES***--AND JUMP OUT.

ARE THEY TRYING TO ***TELL*** US SOMETHING?

ARE THE RUMORS TRUE?

THE RUMORS ARE TRUE AND THEN SOME.

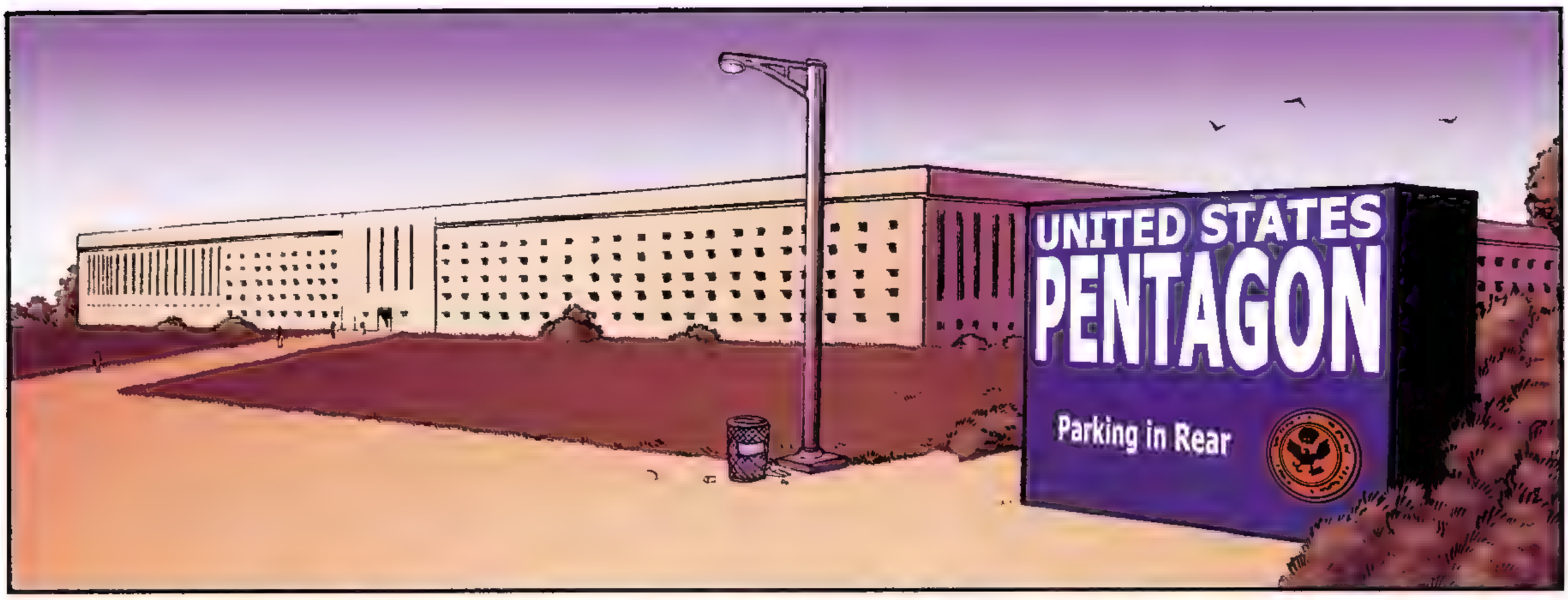
A VERY CLEAR MESSAGE WAS SENT TODAY, DONALD: ***THE ORDER*** IS VERY, ***VERY*** REAL--

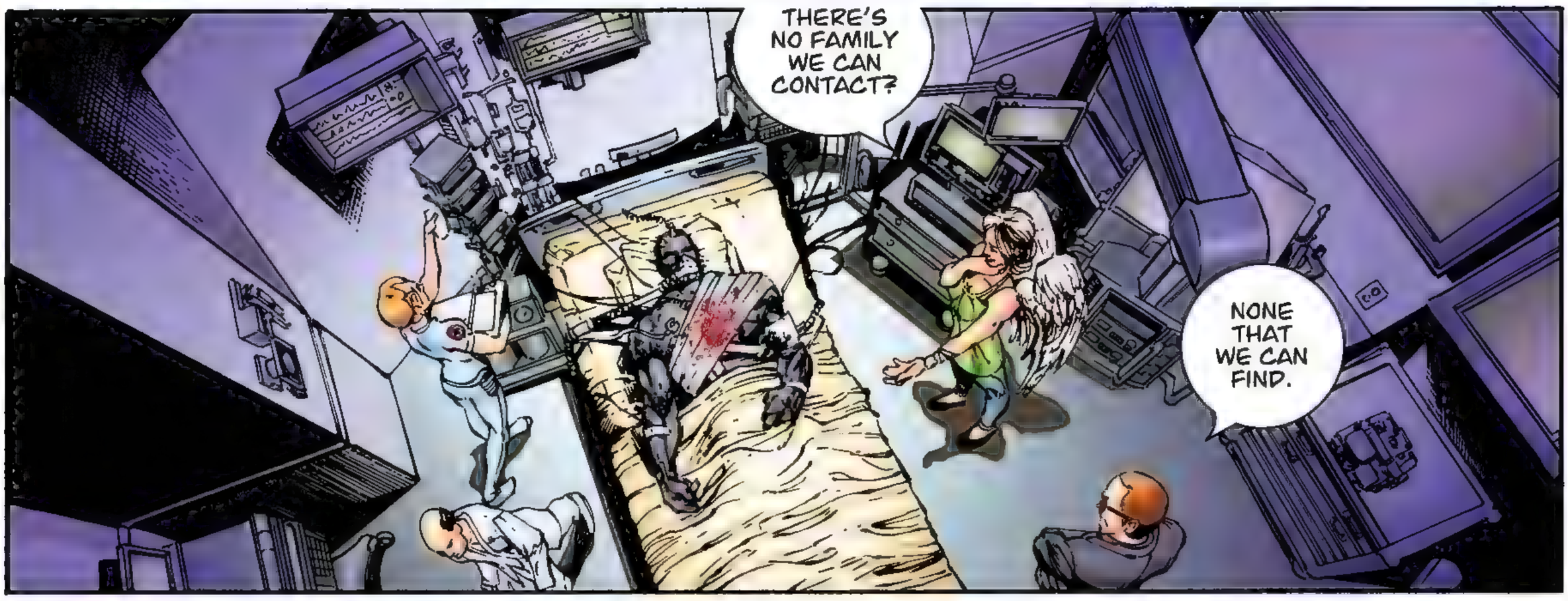
--AND NOT EVEN THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE CAN STOP THEM.

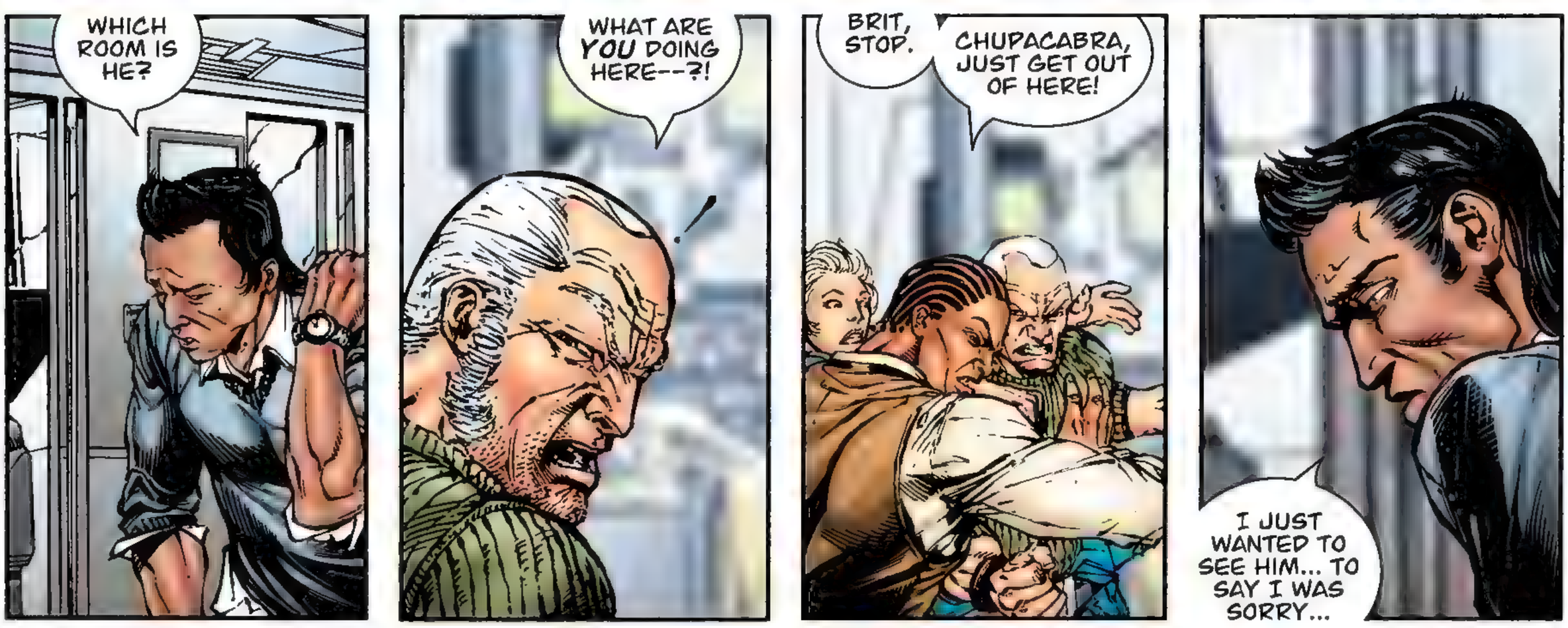


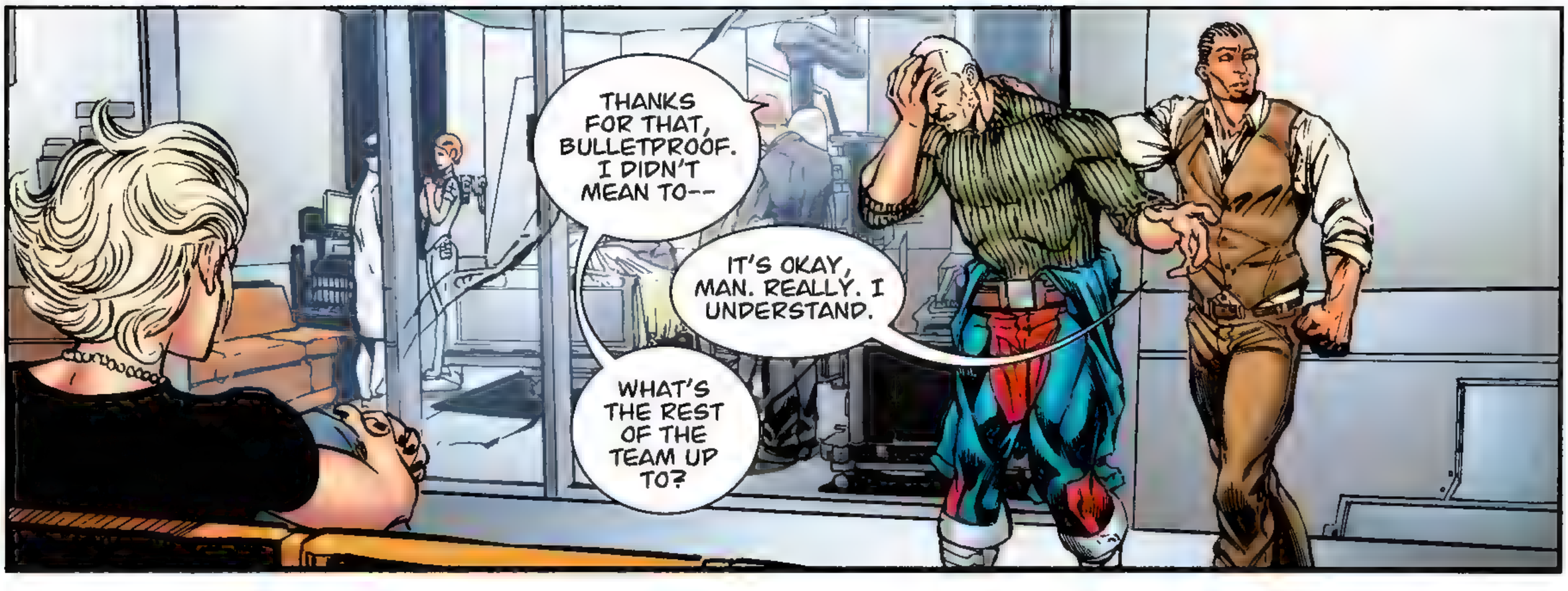
GUARDING THE GLOBE
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UNITED STATES
PENTAGON
Parking in Rear


THERE'S NO FAMILY WE CAN CONTACT?
NONE THAT WE CAN FIND.


WHICH ROOM IS HE?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE--?!
BRIT, STOP.
CHUPACABRA, JUST GET OUT OF HERE!
I JUST WANTED TO SEE HIM... TO SAY I WAS SORRY...


THANKS FOR THAT, BULLETPROOF. I DIDN'T MEAN TO--
IT'S OKAY, MAN. REALLY. I UNDERSTAND.
WHAT'S THE REST OF THE TEAM UP TO?

THEY'RE KEEPIN BUSY.

DAY ONE.

DAY TWO.

BEEP.

BEEEEEEEEEE

DAY THREE.

HE...

WE GATHER HERE TO HONOR OUR FALLEN BROTHER, CAST IRON...

I CAN'T BEGIN TO EXPLAIN HOW SORRY--

YOU'RE SORRY?!

BRIT, DON'T--

BACK OFF, CECIL!

WRAMM!

YOU REALLY WANT TO DO THIS?

I ONLY WANTED--

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU WANT!

AFTER ALL I'VE DONE--ALL I'VE BEEN THROUGH--YOU KNOW THE PAIN I'M ENDURING--

--THE GUILT! YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE ME BE?!

SWOOSH!

YOU DON'T SKATE BY--NOT FOR THIS!

HURK!

...

YOU'RE OFF THIS TEAM, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

NOW GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE I KILL YOU.

STARTING NOW, I'M IN CHARGE OF THIS TEAM. IF I SEE A PROBLEM, YOU'RE GONNA LISTEN.

THIS BLOOD IS ON YOUR HANDS, TOO.

THE TIME DRAWS NEAR.

PUT THE WORD OUT. FIVE DAYS UNTIL WE STRIKE.

CHUPACABRA!

THERE YOU ARE!

I'VE BEEN LOOKING-- QUITE LITERALLY-- ALL OVER THE PLACE FOR YOU, LOVE.

WHY WOULD YOU LOOK FOR ME? I--I *KILLED* THAT INNOCENT MAN!

PISH AND TOSH, LOVE. YOU DIDN'T THROW THAT AXE, AND YOU DIDN'T THROW HIM IN FRONT OF IT.

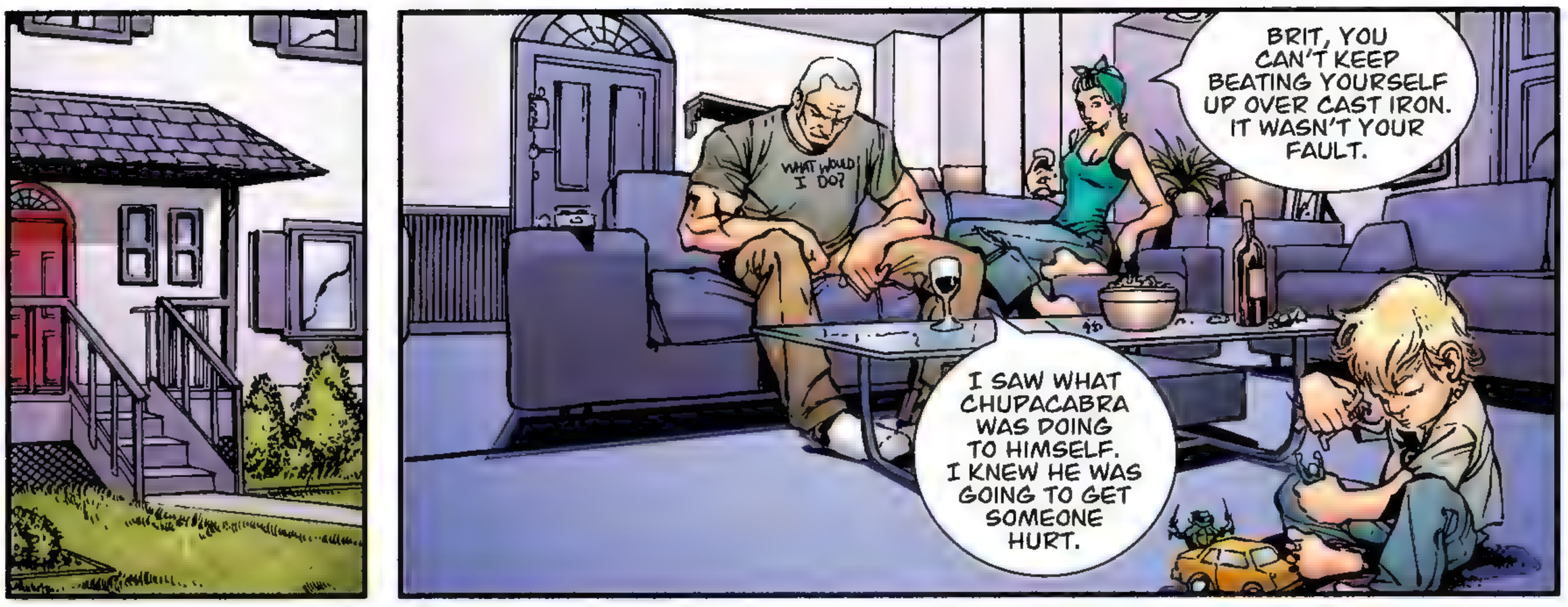
DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT BRIT SAYS. I'M HERE TO HELP YOU FORGET ALL ABOUT IT.

TWO MORE, PLEASE, BARKEEP.

I'M SO SORRY. EVER SINCE MY WIFE LEFT ME, I'VE JUST--

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT EITHER, LOVE--

--I'LL MAKE YOU FORGET ABOUT *HER*, TOO.


WHAT WOULD I DO?
BRIT, YOU CAN'T KEEP BEATING YOURSELF UP OVER CAST IRON. IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT.
I SAW WHAT CHUPACABRA WAS DOING TO HIMSELF. I KNEW HE WAS GOING TO GET SOMEONE HURT.
IT WAS ON ME TO STOP HIM, AND I DIDN'T DO ENOUGH.
THAT BOY'S DEATH HAPPENED ON MY WATCH.
WELL, CAST IRON KNEW THE RISKS WHEN HE SIGNED UP WITH THE GUARDIANS, THAT'S ALL.
MORE WINE?
NO, I...
I THINK I'VE HAD ENOUGH.
THE PROBLEM WITH THE ORDER IS HOW LITTLE WE KNOW ABOUT THEM.
WE KNOW THEY'RE OUT THERE, WE KNOW THEY'RE ORGANIZED, AND THAT'S ABOUT IT.
THEY'LL TRY TO USE THAT MYSTERY TO THEIR ADVANTAGE-- TO TAKE US UNAWARES.
THAT'S WHY WE'LL HAVE TO STAY PROACTIVE. GET OUT THERE AND NIP THIS IN THE BUD.
FIND ALL THE SUPER-CRIMINAL ACTIVITY YOU CAN, AND LOOK FOR SIGNS THAT IT'S RELATED TO THE ORDER.
GETTING INSIDE INFORMATION ON THIS ORGANIZATION IS THE ONLY WAY WE'RE GOING TO BE ABLE TO STOP THEM BEFORE THEY DO SOMETHING TRULY DEVASTATING.

ALL WILL FALL WHO FIND THEMSELVES STARING DOWN THE BARREL OF THE UNCONQUERABLE *KILLCANNON!*

OOF!

UGH, THIS GUY IS STRICTLY D-LIST.

SMACK!

NOT QUITE ORDER MATERIAL, IS HE?

NO, HE SUCKS PRETTY BAD.

=SIGH= LET'S TAKE HIM IN ANYWAY.

HA! I WIN!

ONLY BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN USING YOUR SUPER SPEED THE WHOLE BLOODY GAME!

WHATEVER, KABOOMERANG. YOU SAY THAT LIKE YOU WEREN'T USING YOUR TELEKINETIC POWERS TO YOUR OWN ADVANTAGE.

My Boomeran Never Blows Early

OI, YOU REALLY GOT ME WORKING UP A SWEAT, LOVE.

I'VE DEFINITELY GOT TO HIT THE SHOWERS AFTER THAT GAME.

OR...

...I COULD HIT THE SHOWERS *WITH* YOU, AND WE COULD WORK UP A WHOLE DIFFERENT KIND OF SWEAT.

HEH. YOU REALLY SPEAK MY LANGUAGE, BEAUTIFUL.

HAH! MORE GOLD BULLION STRAIGHT FROM THE TREASURY TO ADD TO MY COLLECTION, AND NOT A SINGLE CAPE EVEN SHOWS UP TO STOP ME!

OPEN SESAME! HAH HAH!

BEEP!

SECURITY KEY ALPHA SIX NINER.

VOICE AUTHORIZATION: *MAGNATTACK.* CONFIRMED.

CLICK!

AHHH... FINALLY HOME.

CHK!

HUH?

HELLO, THIEF.

MOON COFFEE SUCKS!

MOON TV SUCKS MORE!

MIGHT I BE OF SOME HELP?

UHHH... I...

CAN YOU?

IF YOU HAD READ MY MANUAL, YOU WOULD KNOW THAT UPGRADING EXISTING TECHNOLOGY IS MY PRIMARY FUNCTION.

HOLY MOLEY.

PLEASE TELL ME YOU CAN FIX THE COFFEE MAKER.

THIS IS A BIG ONE, BRIT. WE'VE GOT SOMETHING CROSSING A HEMISPHERE AND LEAVING A TRAIL OF DESTRUCTION IN ITS WAKE.

IT STARTED SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE OF ASIA, BUT HAS TRAVELED IN A STEADY PATH ACROSS THE CONTINENT.

BASED ON REPORTED SIMILAR INCIDENTS ON VARIOUS PACIFIC ISLANDS, I WOULD SAY IT'S MAKING ITS WAY ACROSS THE OCEAN.

ITS SPEED AND TRAJECTORY SUGGESTS IT WILL HIT THE WEST COAST WITHIN THE NEXT FEW HOURS.

AND YOU THINK THIS MIGHT BE RELATED TO THE ORDER?

WHAT LITTLE INTEL WE HAVE INDICATES THEY MIGHT HAVE HEADQUARTERS IN CENTRAL ASIA.

ALL RIGHT, CECIL. I'LL PUT A TEAM TOGETHER AND SEE WHAT WE CAN FIND OUT.

OH, SON OF A--!

WHAT THE HELL *IS* THAT THING, BOSS?

IT'S A FROST GIANT. I TOOK ONE OF THESE BAD BOYS OUT BEFORE, BUT IT TOOK A FLEET OF FIGHTER JETS AND A PORTABLE NUCLEAR REACTOR TO DO IT.

ERM, IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, MATE, WE DON'T HAVE ANY OF THAT STUFF.

NOPE. JUST *US*.

WOOSH!

HEY, HANDSOME! HEADS UP!

KER-WAKK!

HMPH. ALL RIGHT, TINY PERSON, HERE'S THE DEAL-- I'LL FIGHT YOU IF YOU WANT, BUT I'M NOT LOOKING FOR TROUBLE.

I'M JUST OUT HERE TRYING TO FIND MY SON.

I'VE FOLLOWED HIS SCENT HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD, AND--

=SNIFF=

HEY!

THERE'S MY LITTLE BOY!

"LITTLE BOY"? IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'LL LOOK LIKE FULL GROWN, HOW OLD CAN A RUNT LIKE YOU BE?

BRIT, I THINK I'VE DONE A PRETTY GOOD JOB ON THIS TEAM SO FAR AND--

CUT THE CRAP, KID. JUST GIVE ME A NUMBER.

TWELVE.

TWELVE?!

JESUS CHRIST, KID! IS THAT A *JOKE*?

YOU DON'T THINK IT'S BAD ENOUGH THE TEAM IS DEALING WITH A DRUNK MEMBER WHO KILLED HIS TEAMMATE?

WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENS TO OUR P.R. IF SOMEONE FINDS OUT THEY CAN ADD *CHILD ENDANGERMENT* TO OUR LIST OF SINS?

BUT, BRIT, I'M SUPER-TOUGH, YOU'VE SEEN--

I'M SORRY, KID. I REALLY AM. BUT YOU'RE OFF THE TEAM-- *EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.*

DAMN, MAN. PICKINGS ARE SLIM TODAY.

GAH! OUTRUN!

MAN, I DIDN'T EVEN SEE YOU THERE! YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE A MAN A HEART ATTACK!

YOU LOOK PRETTY TIRED, ZANDALE. BEEN KEEPING A FULL SCHEDULE, HAVE WE?

NO JOKE. IT'S BAD ENOUGH WE HAVE TO BUST EVERY CRIMINAL IN THE WORLD TO CHECK FOR CONNECTIONS TO THE ORDER.

BUT ON TOP OF THAT, I'VE BEEN MOONLIGHTING TO HELP OUT MY FRIEND ATOM EVE WHILE HER BOYFRIEND'S IN SPACE.

SOUNDS TO ME LIKE YOU NEED A NICE RELEASE, LOVE. AS IT HAPPENS, I KNOW JUST THE THING TO TAKE YOUR MIND OFF WORK.

MMM. THAT'S NICE, REAL--

WELL, I WASN'T PLANNING ON TELLING HER ANYTHING ABOUT THIS--

--WERE YOU?

HEY, NOW. YOU *KNOW* I'VE GOT A GIRLFRIEND.

WELL...

LOOK, BRIT--I'M OKAY WITH YOU TAKING OVER MAKING DECISIONS FOR THE TEAM, BUT THE FACT IS YOU CAN'T JUST KEEP KICKING OUT MEMBERS WILLY-NILLY.

NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO LOOK WEAK OR INDECISIVE IN THE EYES OF OUR ENEMY. LOSING CAST IRON, CHUPACABRA, NOW YETI--AND FOR THAT MATTER, WHO KNOWS IF WE'LL EVER SEE ROBOT AND MONSTER GIRL AGAIN...

THE POINT IS, WE'VE GOT TO FILL IN THESE GAPS.

WE COULD REALLY USE YOU ON THE TEAM, GARY. WE NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET, AND YOU WORKED WELL WITH THE TEAM BEFORE.

I KNOW, CECIL--BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, I'VE KIND OF GOT MY OWN THING GOING ON AT THE MOMENT.

BRITNEY, I'M ASKING YOU AS A FAVOR. FROM BROTHER TO SISTER. PLEASE.

I APPRECIATE YOU USING THE MAGIC WORD AND ALL, BUMBLES, BUT MY HANDS ARE A LITTLE TIED RIGHT NOW.

C'MON, DARKBLOOD, YOU'VE GOT THE CRIME ***INVESTIGATION*** PART DOWN PRETTY WELL. MIGHT AS WELL TRY YOUR HAND AT CRIME ***FIGHTING.***

HURM...

NO WAY IN ***HELL.***

I WILL TELL YOU, BRUSIER-- I DO NOT KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT MANY OF MY TEAM-MATES.

WAOUH!

NO, NOT YOU. YOU ARE, OF COURSE, ALWAYS A PERFECT GENTLEMAN, AND YOUR VIRTUE IS IMPECCABLE.

ALTHOUGH YETI WAS EXPOSED AS A CHILD, I DON'T SEE HOW SHAPESMITH IS ANY DIFFERENT.

AND THESE OTHERS--OUTRUN, KABOOMERANG, BULLETPROOF... THE WAY THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER, I CAN ONLY IMAGINE THE HORRORS THEY ARE PERFORMING AT NIGHT.

AT LEAST WE GOT RID OF THAT DRUNK, CH--

AH! A CRIME IS IN PROGRESS, MY FRIEND!

BANK

CLANGA-LANGA-LANGA-LANGA-LANG!

YOU KNOW OUR ORDERS-- WE ARE OBLIGED TO INTERVENE!

JAPPE! JAPPE!

CRASH!

WHAT THE HELL, MAN?

IS THAT A FREAKING DO--

OOF!

NOW, TELL ME, GENTLEMEN-- DO EITHER OF YOU WORK FOR THE ORDER?

LADY, I GOT NO IDEA WHAT THAT EVEN MEANS.

THEY ARE ALL YOURS, OFFICER. TAKE THEM AWAY.

I WONDER IF PERHAPS THE ORDER HAVE GIVEN UP. WE HAVE NOT HEARD FROM THEM IN NEARLY A WEEK.

OUAHN!

YES, PERHAPS THEY *ARE* FRIGHTENED BY HOW STRONG YOU ARE.

HELLO, SHAPESMITH. ARE WE THE ONLY ONES STILL IN THE BASE?

I DUNNO. I GUESS SO.

SO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE? SOMETHING IMPORTANT?

YEAH. PLAYING SOME VIDEO GAMES.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR AFTER THE GAME?

I WAS THINKING ABOUT EATING CANDY UNTIL A CRIME HAPPENS.

I HEARD A RUMOR YOU LIKE LOOKING AT HUMAN FEMALE BODY PARTS. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE SOME?

I MEAN, I *GUESS* I COULD PAUSE MY GAME FOR A FEW MINUTES...

IS IT TRUE THAT YOU CAN TURN YOUR BODY INTO ANY SHAPE, LOVE?

YEAH, PRETTY MUCH.

UH... WHAT DOES *THAT* HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING?

SOMETHING'S HAPPENING IN PARIS!

BRING IT UP ON SCREEN!



TEN MINUTES.

THIS IS WHAT THE ORDER IS CAPABLE OF WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER.

IF THE CITIZEN DID NOT FEAR US BEFORE, HE IS SURELY PISSING HIMSELF NOW.

UNITED STATES
PENTAGON
Parking in Rear

WE'VE GOT REPORTS COMING IN FROM ALL OVER... COMMUNICATIONS ARE DOWN.

HOW MANY GUARDIANS TEAMS HAVE WE SCRAMBLED?

TWO, SIR. WE DON'T YET KNOW THE SITUATION BUT I FIGURED IT WOULDN'T HURT TO SEND IN TWO TEAMS.

SIR, THE SATELLITES ARE IN POSITION, WE HAVE VISUALS FROM PARIS COMING IN.

PUT IT ON SCREEN.

MY GOD...

TWO TEAMS IS NOT ENOUGH...

...SEND EVERYONE.



GUARDING THE GLOBE
VOL. 1 #6



WELL DONE. A MASTERPIECE OF DEVASTATION AND **DEATH.**

A FINE VICTORY INDEED, SET. VERY FINE.

IS THIS THE SPOT FROM WHICH WE WILL SPREAD OUR EMPIRE?

NO. NOW THAT WE HAVE LAID WASTE TO THEIR CITY OF LIGHT, NEXT WE WILL REMOVE THEIR LAST HOPE.

WE GO TO WASHINGTON AND WE MURDER THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY IN THEIR BEDS, DRAGGING THEIR CORPSES BEFORE THE EYES OF THEIR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

THE CITIZEN NOW KNOWS THAT WE ARE SERIOUS, BUT HE WILL NOT KNOW THAT WE ARE HIS MASTERS UNTIL HE HEARS THE BREAKING OF HIS BONES AND SEES THAT WE ARE THE ONES FEASTING ON THE MARROW.

NOW WE REMOVE ALL DOUBTS FROM THEIR MINDS-- THIS WORLD IS **OURS.**

NEVER.

NOT WHILE IT'S STILL OUR JOB TO GUARD IT.

JUST TRY TO PRY IT FROM OUR GRASP, WORMS.

KRAKK!

GLADLY.

JAPANDROID, WHAT'S THE PRELIMINARY SCAN TELLING YOU ON DEATH TOLL? HUNDREDS? THOUSANDS?

MILLIONS. NEAR TOTAL ANNIHILATION INSIDE THE CITY.

WRAMM!

KRAK!

THAT SETTLES IT THEN. NO HOLDING BACK.

BOOM! BOOM!

VAF!
VAF!
VAF!

KRAK
OOM!

HOLY--!
LE BRUSIER
IS *PISSED!*

WHAT DO
YOU EXPECT?
THIS CITY IS HIS
HOME, AND THESE
MONSTERS HAVE
DESTROYED
IT!

TITAN! I'VE SEEN YOU STEAL...BREAK A FEW LEGS, BUT THIS--!

TO DESTROY THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY—TO MURDER THESE PEOPLE! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?

I MAY BE IN A LITTLE OVER MY HEAD-- BUT THERE'S NO TURNING BACK NOW!

I'M SORRY, OLD FRIEND.

KNOCKOUT! OVER HERE! I COULD USE A HAND.

WHAM!

YOU GOT IT.

ALMOST TOO EASY.

I COULD HAVE STOOD TO SPEND A LITTLE MORE TIME IN THAT FORM, MAYBE SET WILL LET ME KEEP HER AS A SLAVE.

THANKS FOR THE ASSIST, TEARING DOWN AN ENTIRE CITY SORT OF WORE ME OUT-- I DON'T KNOW HOW WE'RE FARING SO WELL HERE!

BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!

IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN A FEW BULLETS TO STOP *THE WALKING DREAD!*

NO WORRY.

LOTS MORE.

BTOW!

NICE TRY, HANDSOME--

--BUT YOU CAN'T HIT WHAT YOU CAN'T *CATCH!*

BOOM!

EEP!

NO ONE ESCAPES THE GAZE OF RED EYE, MY DEAR.

NO ONE.

BRZAP!

KEEP FIGHTING, TEAM! WE'VE GOT TO PRESS ON!

WHAT IS IT YOU EXPECT TO DO HERE? WE DESTROY A CITY AND YOU TRY TO WHAT-- *PUNCH* US?

YOU DON'T EVEN REALIZE HOW OUT-MATCHED YOU ARE!

HE MIGHT HAVE A POINT, BRIT--THIS DRAGON IS HUGE! LOOK AT IT!

I WILL BE ABLE TO ASSIST YOU IN ROUGHLY THIRTEEN SECONDS, SHAPESMITH. I MUST FIRST DISPATCH THIS ARMORED... *JERK.*

WUOPP!

THIRTEEN SECONDS?! YOU'RE AN *ARROGANT* LITTLE ROBOT. I ADMIRE THAT!

JUST... FALL DOWN ALREADY! FALL, DAMMIT!

SWAK!

YOU SEEM TO BE THE LEADER OF THESE HOPELESS CHILDREN.

PERHAPS WHEN THEY SEE ME CRUSH YOUR BODY, IT WILL FINALLY CRUSH THEM IN SPIRIT.

GOOD LUCK WITH THAT...

...NOT BEING CRUSHED--

--IS KIND OF MY THING.

NO!

MY HELMET!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!

NO! NO! NO!

YOU'VE RUINED EVERYTHING! YEARS OF WORK! YEARS OF PLANNING! ALL FOR NOTHING!!

YEARS SPENT TRAPPED BEHIND THAT HELMET, INHIBITING MY POWERS OF INFLUENCE AND CONTROL--ALL FOR NOTHING!

I'M SORRY, FATHER! I KNOW I'VE BROKEN THE RULES--IT WAS NO FAULT OF MY OWN, BUT I WILL ACCEPT MY PUNISHMENT!

I CAN STILL PROVE MYSELF WORTHY--I CAN STILL EARN YOUR RESPECT--!

FORFEITING THE TACTICAL ADVANTAGE OF SURPRISE IS ILL ADVISED, YES... BUT SERIOUSLY-- WHAT THE HELL?

EH?

EVIDENCE SUGGESTS YOUR ABILITIES TO RENDER PEOPLE MOTIONLESS DO NOT AFFECT SYNTHETIC LIFE.

YOU? I'VE JUST BROUGHT TWO ARMIES TO A STANDSTILL WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A WAVE OF MY HAND!

WHAT HOPE COULD A TINY, GIRLISH AUTOMATON HAVE OF EVEN GIVING ME A MOMENT'S PAUSE?

CALCULATING...

ODDS OF MY SUCCESS: 0.0001%.

ODDS OF MY SURRENDER: 0.0000%.

YOU CANNOT GRASP THE MOMENT IN WHICH YOU FACE ME, LITTLE ONE.

THE ANGUISH OF FAILURE BRINGS WITH IT A *RAGE*--A *FURY* UNLIKE ANYTHING THIS WORLD HAS EVER SEEN.

ALL THIS ANGER-- ALL THIS RAGE--

--DIRECTED AT YOU!

KRA-

AND HERE IT ENDS. ALL MY FOES **DEFEATED**, BUT ALL MY GOALS UNATTAINED.

RE--RE-CALCULATING...

SLEEP.

ALL OF YOU.

ALL THESE YEARS, THESE **DECADES** OF WORK. AND I WAS SO CLOSE.

SO CLOSE.

AND NOW I SHALL BEGIN AGAIN FROM SCRATCH.

WHAT?

WHERE AM--?

...

DEEP BELOW THE PENTAGON, THE SECRET HEADQUARTERS OF THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY.

UNITED STATES PENTAGON

Parking in Rear

--WAS SO DISORIENTED AT FIRST, I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE ANYONE-- DIDN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING. I STILL DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED. MEMBERS OF THE ORDER MUST HAVE KNOWN ENOUGH TO FLEE BEFORE WE FULLY CAME TO.

THEY'RE STILL OUT THERE, CECIL.

AND WE'LL BE THERE TO--

WHAT HAVE WE MISSED?

ROBOT AND MONSTER GIRL ARE BACK, RETURNED FROM THE FLAXAN DIMENSION A COUPLE DAYS AGO... APPARENTLY THEY RULED THEIR EMPIRE FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS.

AND SINCE TIME PASSES DIFFERENTLY IN THAT DIMENSION--THEY'RE ADULTS NOW, WHICH IS STRANGE, SEEING AS HOW WHEN THEY LEFT A MONTH AGO THEY WERE BOTH PRETEENS... AT LEAST THEIR BODIES WERE, I GUESS THEIR, I DON'T KNOW... ***BRAINS*** WERE MUCH OLDER...

IT'S ALL SO DAMN COMPLICATED AND--

OH, DON'T RUB IT IN, DON'T COME HERE NOW THAT I'M OFF THE TEAM AND TELL ME ABOUT ALL THE ***AWESOME*** STUFF THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING.

I'M LIKE-- THE BIGGEST ROBOT FAN EVER!

WHY ***ARE*** YOU HERE, ANYWAY?

THAT'S WHAT I WAS GETTING AT. ROBOT AND MONSTER GIRL WERE IN KIDS' BODIES... AND HELL, LE BRUSIER IS TECHNICALLY ***SIX***. SO THERE'S THAT.

YOU'RE BASICALLY A WHOLE DIFFERENT SPECIES, AND WE REALLY COULD HAVE USED YOU IN PARIS... AND JUST TO FURTHER COVER OUR ASSES, CHILD LABOR LAWS IN THIS COUNTRY ARE...

YOU DON'T MEAN--!

YEAH-- *HUH--*

--THERE'S STILL A SPOT FOR YOU ON THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE...

THAT IS, IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOUR PARENTS...

AS YOU CAN SEE BEHIND ME, THE RECONSTRUCTION EFFORT HAS ALREADY BEGUN, AND WE'LL BE REJOINING THE WORKERS AS SOON AS THIS PRESS CONFERENCE ENDS.

THE DESTRUCTION OF PARIS, FRANCE, IS AN EVENT THAT HAS SENT SHOCK WAVES THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. IT IS NOT A LOSS CONTAINED WITHIN THIS COUNTRY'S BORDERS.

NEVER HAS IT BEEN MORE CLEAR, THAT WE ARE ONE WORLD, ONE COMMUNITY-- WE ALL SURVIVE IN THIS WORLD, BY COMING *TOGETHER.*

MY TEAM COMES FROM EVERY CORNER OF THIS GLOBE, AND TOGETHER, WE WILL BE EXPANDING OUR EFFORTS TO GUARD IT AND ITS CITIZENS.

WE COULDN'T STOP THIS TRAGEDY FROM OCCURRING, BUT IN THE FUTURE WE WILL BE PREPARED FOR ATTACKS ON SUCH A SCALE.

THAT IS OUR MESSAGE TODAY, THAT WE ARE *HERE.*

WE STAND BEFORE YOU, ASSEMBLED, AS A SHOW OF OUR STRENGTH, TO TELL THE WORLD, WE ARE HERE FOR YOU, WE WILL ALWAYS BE HERE FOR YOU...


...NO MATTER HOW GREAT THE CHALLENGE, THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE ARE HERE TO STAY.

PLEASE, FATHER... FORGIVE ME. IT WAS NOT MY FAULT--IT WAS THE HUMAN, HE REMOVED MY HELMET, I WOULD NEVER--

YES, I KNOW THE RULES.

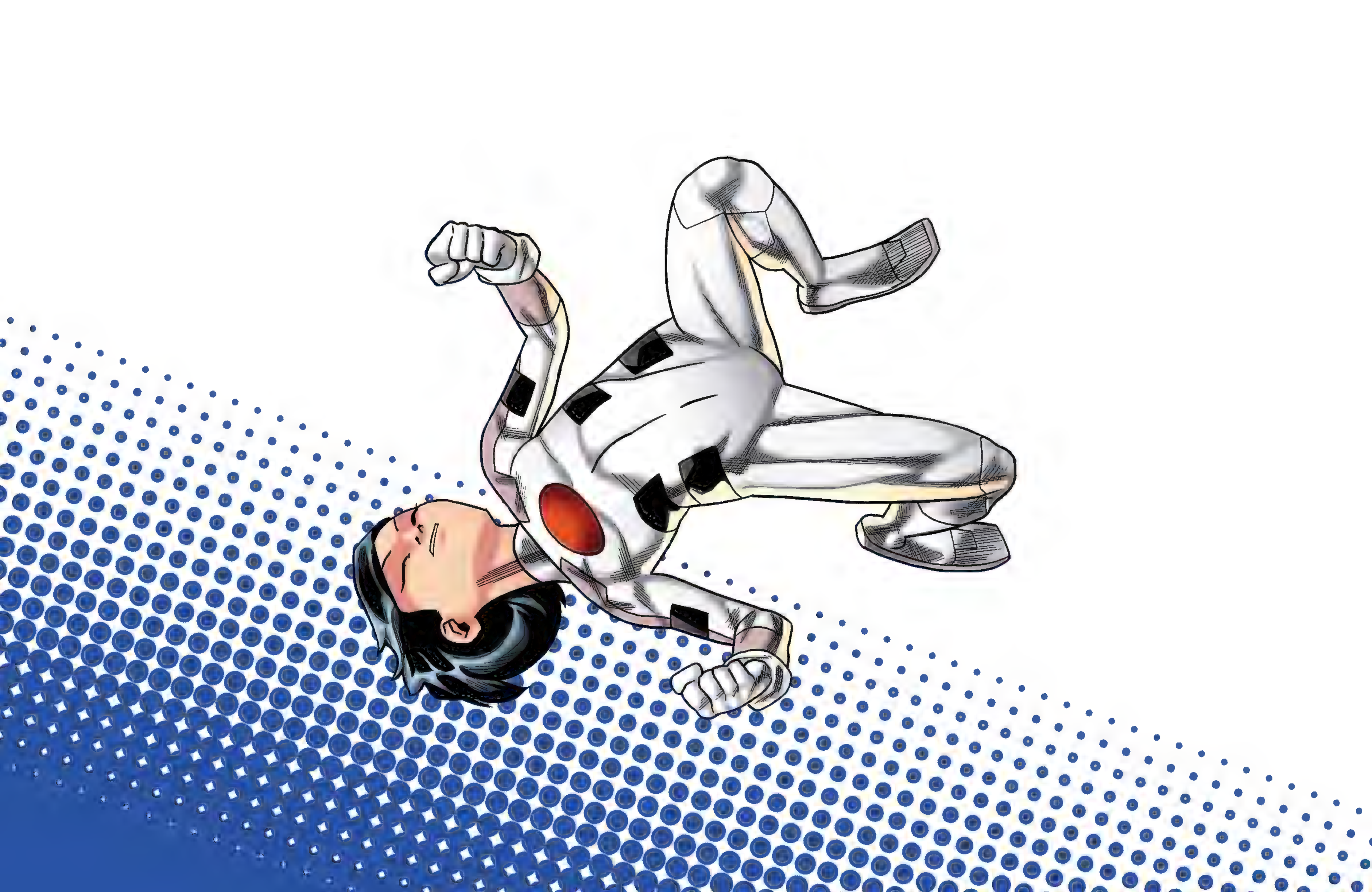
I MUST ACCOMPLISH MY GOALS, A TRIBUTE TO YOUR GLORY-- WITHOUT USING THE GIFT YOU BESTOWED UPON ME.

I WILL COMPLETE THIS TASK--THIS WORLD WILL CRUMBLE BEFORE ME. THE CITIZEN WILL FALL, THE WOMAN, THE CHILD, THE STRONG, THE WEAK-- ***ALL*** WILL PERISH AT MY HAND, PAVING THE WAY FOR YOUR ARRIVAL.

THIS WORLD WILL BE SOAKED IN THEIR BLOOD AS YOU EMERGE TO RULE WHAT REMAINS.

AS YOUR LOYAL SERVANT, I VOW NO MATTER HOW MANY CENTURIES IT TAKES...

...I ***WILL*** SUCCEED.



GUARDING THE GLOBE
"MORNING DRIVE"

MREEP! MREEP!

THOOM!

LOOK AT YOU.

05:45

MAREEE-EE

SO BLISSFULLY UNAWARE.

MREEP! MREEP!

ALMOST WILLINGLY NAIVE.

MREEP! MREEP!

MMM-155! MMM-155! MMM-155! MMM-155!

MREEP! MREEP!

GIVEN ONLY THE MOST MEAGER POWER, YOU CAST YOURSELVES AS PROTECTORS.

MREEP! MREEP!

ALLIED WITH DULL-WITTED MONSTERS, AUGMENTED WITH CRUDE TECHNOLOGY, BOLSTERED BY COMICALLY INFLATED SELF-IMPORTANCE...

YOU TRULY BELIEVE YOU CAN SAVE THE WORLD.

GUARDING THE GLOBE

MORNING DRIVE

I MUST ADMIT, THE EARNEST ZEAL WITH WHICH YOU CONDUCT YOUR CRUSADE IS UNDENIABLY **AMUSING.**

THE WAY YOU DEBASE YOURSELF TO SERVE BEINGS OF EVEN LOWER STATION WOULD PLAY AS **GRAND FARCE** AMONG MY KIND...

...THE PROFOUND FUTILITY OF YOUR SACRIFICE, AS PERFECT **TRAGEDY.**

RELISH YOUR VICTORY WHILE YOU CAN. ENJOY THE ILLUSION OF SECURITY.

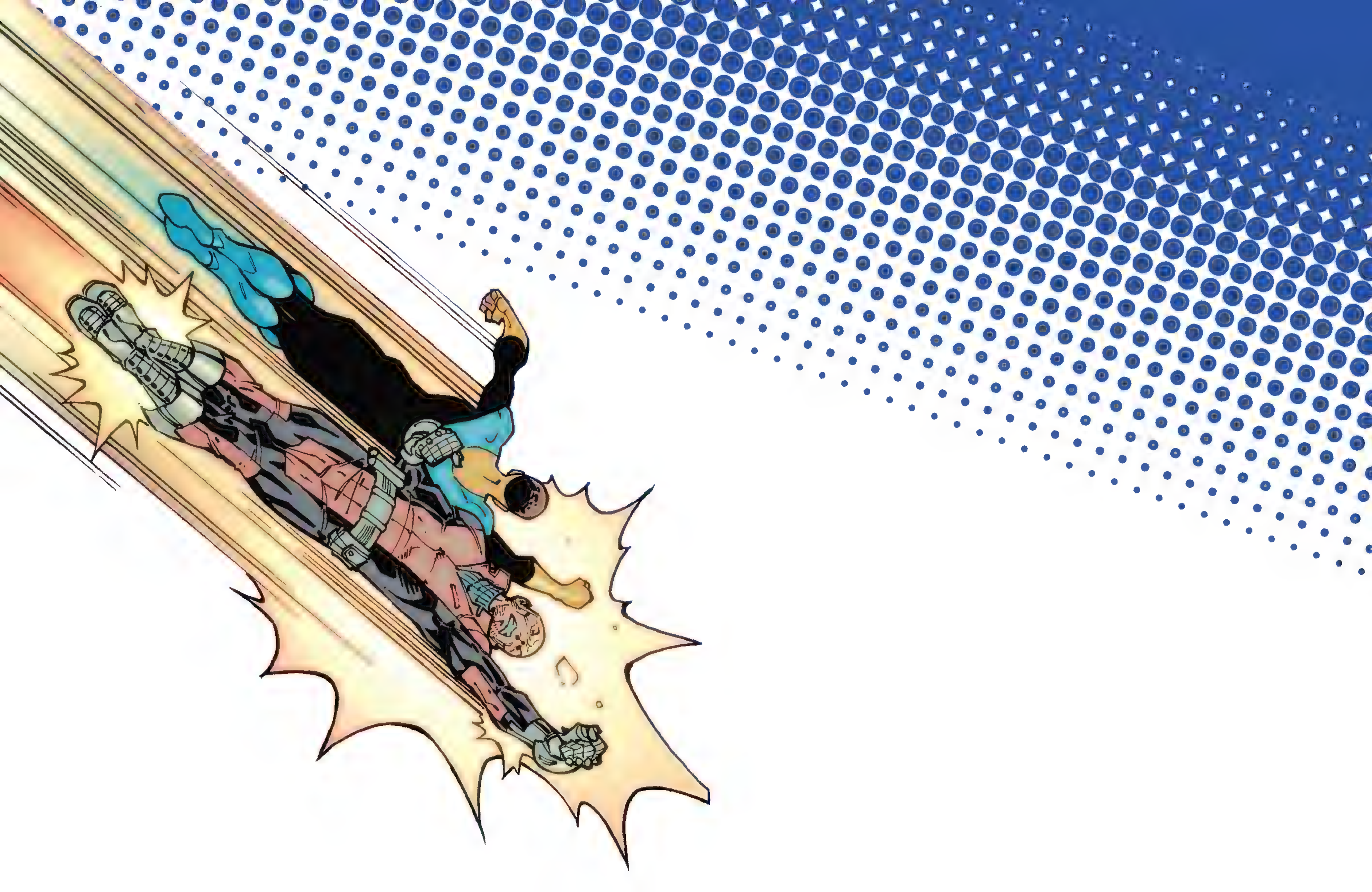
SPLOOSH!

CONTINUE GUARDING THE GLOBE.

KEEP THIS WORLD SAFE.

PRESERVE IT IN THE NAME OF ITS NEW MASTER.

SAFEGUARD IT FOR THE REIGN OF SET!



GUARDING THE GLOBE VOL. 2 #1



CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA.

I--

DO NOT--

HAVE TIME FOR THIS!

CHOMP!

HEY!

GET OFF!

WHAT THE HELL?

INTERESTING.

SHWOMP! SHWOMP!

SAMSON, COULD YOU KICK THAT CAR INTO THE CENTER OF THE MAGMANITES?

NO PROBLEM.

POW!

DUDE, MY CAR!

UH, WHAT EXACTLY ARE THEY DOING THERE?

SHWOMP!

SHWOMP!

SHWOMP!

NEVER MIND THAT. THEY'RE ALL IN ONE PLACE.

IF YOU WOULD, KID THOR?

FWOOM!

AWAKEN!

GUYS, I'M LATE. CAN YOU WRAP THIS UP WITHOUT ME?

SURE THING.

MS. POPPER?

Pop!

GETTING A LATE START?

YOU'RE THE ONE DESPERATE FOR A TELEPORT, CHIEF.

NO LECTURES ON PUNCTUALITY.

Pop!

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA

--TOO EARLY TO PREDICT JUST WHERE ON THE SPECTRUM LITTLE--

Pop!

GAHH!

JESS, I'M SORRY, BABY.

Pop!

HEY, BUDDY. HOW'S IT GOING?

FISHIES.

SIT DOWN, BRIT.

AS I-- UHH-- I WAS JUST TELLING YOUR WIFE, MISTER--?

BRIT'S GOOD.

YES, WELL-- DESPITE YOUR SON'S TRULY REMARKABLE PHYSICAL HEALTH, HE IS SHOWING SOME SYMPTOMS THAT WOULD PLACE HIM SOMEWHERE ON THE *AUTISM SPECTRUM*--

AUTISM? WHAT-- WHAT EXACTLY DOES THAT MEAN?

RATHER BROADLY, YOUR SON HAS A DISORDER THAT AFFECTS CERTAIN CONNECTIONS IN THE BRAIN THAT MAY CAUSE BRIT JR. TO PROCESS INFORMATION VERY DIFFERENTLY FROM OTHERS.

AH, JESUS. SO HE'S-- HE'S--

IT'S TOO EARLY TO DIAGNOSE EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF OUTCOME YOUR SON WILL EXPERIENCE.

IT COULD RANGE FROM SEVERE DEVELOPMENTAL DIFFICULTIES TO SOMETHING AS MILD AS A SLIGHT AWKWARDNESS DURING SOCIAL INTERACTIONS.

NO DOUBT IT'S SOMETHING WE'LL HAVE TO WATCH VERY CAREFULLY, BUT YOUR SON IS STILL VERY YOUNG... NEW THERAPIES ARE BEING DEVELOPED EVERY DAY.

I CAN'T STRESS THIS STRONGLY ENOUGH-- DO NOT BLAME YOURSELF.

HOW DID-- HOW DID THIS *HAPPEN?*

NO ONE REALLY KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT CAUSES AUTISM AT THIS POINT. WE BELIEVE THERE IS A STRONG GENETIC COMPONENT, BUT THEORIES ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE.

I DON'T PUT MUCH STOCK IN IT, BUT SOME FOLKS PUT THE BLAME ON ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS, PESTICIDES, YOU NAME IT.

AUTISM SPECTRUM

AWARENESS

SOME EVEN SAY THE AGE OF THE PARENTS CAN PLAY A ROLE.

BUT AS I SAID--

IT'S STILL TOO EARLY TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOUR LITTLE GUY IS GOING THROUGH.

HONG KONG.

I'M GLAD YOU LET ME TAG ALONG TONIGHT, TIGER. IT'S BEEN ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT.

PLUS, IT GIVES US TIME FOR BONDING-- AS *TEAMMATES*, Y'KNOW?

BONDING.

YOU SHOULD LET ALL THE GUARDIANS GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER. YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ALL THE CRAZY IDEAS SOME OF THEM HAVE ABOUT YOU.

DO YOU KNOW KNOCKOUT THINKS YOU'RE ACTUALLY BLIND, BUT YOUR *KUNG FU'S* SO BLOODY STRONG YOU CAN TAKE OFF THAT BLINDFOLD AND PASS AS A SIGHTED PERSON?

SHE EVEN HAD ME BELIEVING IT FOR A FEW MINUTES. CRAZY, HUH?

VERY CRAZY.

AH, THIS IS THE REAL DEAL, MATE. THESE NEIGHBORHOODS AREN'T IN THE GUIDE BOOKS.

I BET NOT EVEN *BOURDAIN'S* BEEN TO THAT DUMPLING STAND!

YES. AUTHENTIC FOR GOOD FRIEND KABOOMERANG.

ONLY, *UHHH*-- THIS NEIGHBORHOOD IS GETTING A BIT *TOO* AUTHENTIC, IF YOU TAKE MY MEANING.

TOK TOK!

NOW YOU KNOW AUTHENTIC.

SHEK!

(YES?)*

(CAROUSEL.)

* TRANSLATED FROM MANDARIN

FORGET I SAID ANYTHING ABOUT YOU BEING BLIND, MATE.

THE VIEW IS NICE-- *VERY* NICE.

BUT THE ATMOSPHERE IS A LITTLE *CHILLY*.

AND THE SERVICE--

WAIT A MINUTE. THIS IS A *MISSION*, ISN'T IT?

YOU BROUGHT ME HERE ON A *BLOODY MISSION!*

I AM BEST TIGER.

BEST TIGER ALWAYS HUNTING.

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

THROPP!

I DON'T KNOW, DONALD. AREN'T WE A LITTLE OLD FOR THIS?

HELL NO. IT'S BETTER THAN THERAPY.

HAVEN'T USED THIS THING SINCE ***JACKIE ROBINSON*** GAVE IT TO ME HIS ROOKIE YEAR. SURPRISED IT'S HOLDING TOGETHER.

THIS IS WHAT MY OLD MAN AND I USED TO DO IN PLACE OF ACTUAL COMMUNICATION.

WE'D HAVE A CATCH IN THE YARD AND WHATEVER WAS BUGGING ME WOULD GET RESOLVED IN THE IDLE CHATTER.

THOPP!

OR AT LEAST GET ***FORGOTTEN.***

THE SMELL OF THE GRASS, THE POP OF THE LEATHER, SQUINTING INTO THE SUN...

WHAP!

IT'S FUNNY HOW MUCH OF WHAT YOU THINK IS ***YOU*** IS REALLY JUST A COLLECTION OF IMPRESSIONS LIKE THAT.

HOW MUCH OF YOUR IDENTITY TURNS OUT TO BE THE EVERYDAY NEEDS OF YOUR BODY... HUNGER, FATIGUE, THIRST.

ALL THE HABITS YOU ACCUMULATE SATISFYING THOSE NEEDS WIND UP BEING WHAT YOU CONSIDER YOUR ***SELF.***

WHAT'S BUGGING YOU, DONALD?

I THOUGHT-- I THOUGHT I HAD THIS THING *FIGURED OUT*, YOU KNOW?

LEARNING I WAS KILLED IN ACTION, THEN TRANSPLANTED INTO THIS *ROBOTIC BODY*, REBUILDING THE LIFE I LOST.

BUT I *HAVEN'T*, BRIT. I HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT A DAMN THING.

THIS ABOUT BEATRICE?

YEAH-- NO. WHO THE HELL KNOWS?

WHEN I WAS ADJUSTING TO ALL THIS SHE... *MOVED ON*, YOU KNOW?

THERE WERE OTHER MEN.

YOU CAN'T BLAME HER FOR THAT, DONALD. SHE THOUGHT YOU WERE, WELL, *GONE*.

I *DON'T*-- AT LEAST, I *TRY* NOT TO.

IT'S ALMOST FUNNY. WHAT I SAID ABOUT PERSONALITY REALLY BEING A *COLLECTION OF HABITS*-- ALL THAT STUFF IS LOST TO ME NOW.

I GET OUT OF BED AND I DON'T HAVE TO PISS. I DON'T EVEN HAVE MORNING BREATH.

I SMELL COFFEE AND BACON COOKING, BUT I DON'T *CRAVE* IT.

BEA FEELS IT, DONNY FEELS IT.

I-- I'M NOT *ME* ANYMORE, BRIT.

HELL, I EVEN *PRETEND* TO SLEEP IN THE FIRST PLACE.

I LOST ALL THE GREAT THINGS ABOUT BEING ALIVE, BUT KEPT EVERY LAST PETTY ANXIETY.

DONALD, SLOW DOWN. I'VE BEEN AROUND A LONG TIME, SEEN A LOT OF SCREWED UP STUFF.

I'VE SEEN PEOPLE CHEWED UP AND SPIT OUT BY LIFE. SOME BREAK, SOME ***DON'T.***

THE FACT THAT YOU KNOW SOMETHING'S WRONG TELLS ME YOU'RE NOT BROKEN.

YOU'LL GET THROUGH THIS.

WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS.

LOOK AT ME.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO TALK IN THE FIRST PLACE AND I JUST STEAMROLLED THE WHOLE MORNING.

EVERYTHING GOOD WITH THE FAMILY?

FORGET ABOUT IT, MAN. WE'RE GONNA BE LATE FOR WORK.

YEAH, I DON'T THINK SO.

SORRY.

MY MITT!

SHOOOOM!

AH, LET IT GO. WHOEVER FINDS IT CAN PAY OFF THEIR MORTGAGE.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

THAT IS SO COMPLETELY WRONG.

WHAT? HE *IS* FRENCH.

LE BRUSIER'S BEEN STRESSED OUT SINCE, YOU KNOW--

PARIS.

=KAFF!=

=KAFF!=

AND WHEN DID YOU START SMOKING, OUTRUN?

YOU'RE A *RUNNER*, FOR GOD'S SAKE.

OH, WELL-- I'M NOT-- YOU *KNOW*--

YEAH... *WHATEVER.* STAFF MEETING IN FIVE DOWNSTAIRS.

SKRNCH!

=KAFF!=

HEY, GUYS.

THAT IS *SO* WRONG.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GET SOME DECENT DOUGHNUTS IN HERE?

UNITED STATES PENTAGON

Parking In Rear

GOOD MORNING.

CECIL, YOU SEE THESE SAD LITTLE WADS OF FRIED DOUGH?

HOW COULD ANY GOVERNMENT AGENCY, MUCH LESS ONE CHARGED WITH SAFEGUARDING THE ***WELL-BEING OF THE ENTIRE GLOBE***, BE EXPECTED TO SUBSIST ON SUCH MEAGER--

WHY, I'M JUST ***FINE***. HOW ARE YOU, BULLETPROOF?

DUDE, I'VE BEEN INVINCIBLE FOR LIKE A ***MONTH*** NOW.

THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT. THIS WHOLE SPREAD IS A SUBSTANDARD ***DISGRACE***...

HEROES OF OUR STATURE DESERVE SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE SUBSTANTIVE--

GOOD MORNING, BRIT, OUTRUN--

AND YOU! HOW'S MY BRAVE LITTLE SUPER HERO?

WHO'S BEEN A GOOD GOVERNMENT AGENT? ***YOU*** HAVE!

YOU HAVE, HAVEN'T YOU?

HE SMELLS LIKE AN ***ASHTRAY***. DID HE PASS OUT IN A BAR AGAIN?

FORGET IT. I'D RATHER NOT KNOW.

BEGIN THE BRIEFING IF YOU WOULD, ROBOT.

HEY, EVERYONE.

PRETTY QUIET SHIFT, TO BE HONEST.

WE HAD THAT BRIEF ***MAGMANITE*** RAMPAGE IN CHARLOTTE SOME OF YOU WERE PRESENT FOR.

AFTER A BRIEF SKIRMISH WITH A TEAM OF GUARDIANS, THEY WERE DRIVEN INTO HIDING. JAPANDROID, KID THOR AND KNOCKOUT VOLUNTEERED TO PURSUE.

WE'VE LONG BELIEVED THESE LAVA CREATURES TO BE LARGELY MINDLESS, BUT UPON OBSERVATION, JAPANDROID DISCERNED A CULTURE WITH A DISTINCT LANGUAGE AND MORALITY.

SHE PROGRAMMED HERSELF TO TRANSLATE AND STRUCK UP A DETENTE.

NOW FREE FROM THE YOKE OF DOC SEISMIC, THE MAGMANITES WISH TO LIVE IN PEACEFUL ISOLATION.

BUT IRON ORE IS A CORE NUTRIENT IN THEIR DIET. ONCE THEIR LOCAL RESERVES WERE DEPLETED THEY SOUGHT OUT NEW SOURCES ON THE SURFACE.

THAT'S WHY THEY WENT NUTS FOR MY POWER GLOVE.

UNDOUBTEDLY. JAPANDROID PROPOSES A REGULAR DELIVERY OF SCRAP METAL TO THEIR CAPITAL AS A KIND OF PEACE OFFERING.

YOU CAN REVIEW HER FULL REPORT AT YOUR LEISURE. IT'S IN THE MEMO I EMAILED EVERYONE THIS MORNING.

IN HONG KONG, BEST TIGER AND KABOOMERANG ROUTED A DEN OF TRIAD SLAVERS WHO'VE BEEN SHIPPING KIDNAP VICTIMS TO THE MIDDLE EAST IN EXCHANGE FOR PURE TAR HEROIN--

AND ADVANCED CYBERNETIC WEAPONRY--

STILL WORKING ON THE SOURCE OF THE TECH.

THAT'S A NICE LEAD. DONALD, WHO WAS WORKING THAT ONE?

SOMETHING BEST TIGER DEVELOPED ON HIS OWN.

JAPANDROID AND I BELIEVE THE ADVANCED SYSTEMS ANALYSIS HE EXERTS IN COMBAT SITUATIONS IS ALSO SUBCONSCIOUSLY APPLIED TO LARGER PROBLEMS.

THE GUY'S A SUPERCOMPUTER WITH SIDEARMS. LOTS OF UPSIDE.

I THINK THAT'S ABOUT IT.

IT'S PRETTY REMARKABLE.

HE WAS ABLE TO DISCERN THAT A SMALL DIP IN THE RATE OF NORMAL CRIMINAL ACTIVITY FROM THIS PARTICULAR CELL MEANT THEY WERE INVOLVED IN SOMETHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

OH, YEAH--

EL CHUPACABRA BUSTED UP A BIKE GANG IN DURANGO, MEXICO RESPONSIBLE FOR KILLING TWO HIGH COURT JUDGES LAST YEAR. PEGASUS PROVIDED COVERT AIR SUPPORT AND SURVEILLA--

HOLD IT. CHUPACABRA?

WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN, CECIL?

WE'VE BEEN SLOWLY EASING HIM BACK INTO DUTY. SMALL, SOLO STUFF LIKE THIS BIKER CAPER.

OH, YEAH? WHAT'S THE **BODY COUNT** FROM THIS LITTLE ADVENTURE?

OUTPATIENTS ONLY, BRIT. THE GUY'S CHANGED.

HE FOUND JESUS, DRIED OUT.

I WAS JUST AS SKEPTICAL AS YOU ARE, BRIT, BUT HE'S IN A **TWELVE STEP**, REALLY WORKING THE PROGRAM.

I THOUGHT WE WERE AN ELITE GROUP OF SUPERHUMAN OPERATIVES HERE, NOT A **HALFWAY HOUSE.**

BRIT, HE'S A VALUABLE ASSET.

SO WAS **CAST IRON.**

YOU KNOW WHAT? FORGET IT. IT'S NOT WORTH IT.

FAILAKA ISLAND, KUWAIT.

WHERE IS HE?

WHERE IS THE MASTER?

WHERE--?

MASTER, I HAVE NEWS!

I AM WORKING, AZIZ.

I AM SORRY, BUT THE NEWS IS QUITE URGENT.

YOU'VE COME TO TELL ME MY CONNECTION IN HONG KONG HAS BEEN DISRUPTED.

YES, BUT-- BUT I HAVE JUST LEARNED OF THIS FROM THE TRIAD THEMSELVES. HOW COULD YOU--?

THE WORKINGS OF MY INTELLECT ARE AMONG THE LAST CONCEPTS I'D EXPECT YOU TO GRASP, AZIZ.

NOW, PLEASE BE SILENT--

YOU'LL WAKE THE CHILDREN.

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

THIS IS GOOD, HON. REALLY GOOD.

JESS?

I KNEW. I ALWAYS KNEW.

I THOUGHT IT WAS ME, LIKE A POSTPARTUM THING, BUT IT WAS HIM.

HONEY.

EVEN WHEN I WAS BREAST-FEEDING HIM, I COULDN'T FEEL IT.

I COULDN'T FEEL THE CONNECTION.

LOOK AT HIM NOW, BRIT. IT'S LIKE WE'RE NOT EVEN HERE!

I KNOW. I KNOW AND I DON'T CARE.

I DON'T CARE IF HE'S A GENIUS, OR A FOOTBALL STAR, OR A DOUBLE AMPUTEE--

OR IF HE'S LIKE THIS FOREVER.

HE'S STILL OUR SON AND HE DESERVES OUR LOVE.

OH, GOD, I KNOW THAT. I'LL NEVER STOP LOVING HIM. I JUST--

I JUST WANT HIM TO BE ABLE TO FEEL IT.

PYONGYANG, NORTH KOREA.

DAMN SNOW! I DESPISE THE COLD!

AH, BUT IT IS A SIGN OF HEAVEN'S DISMAY AT YOUR FATHER'S DEATH, DEAREST LEADER.

BAH! THEN THE SKY SHOULD BREAK OPEN WITH BLINDING SUNSHINE UPON THE JOYOUS NEWS OF MY SUCCESSION!

NO DOUBT IT WILL, BRAVEST LEADER, BUT YOUR ASCENT IS NOT YET COMPLETE.

YOU MUST FIRST MAKE PILGRIMAGE TO THE FORBIDDEN TEMPLE AND LAY YOUR FATHER AT HIS FINAL REST WITH YOUR OWN HANDS.

F-- FORBIDDEN?

NONE BUT THE SONS OF THE MOST EXALTED BLOODLINE MAY SET FOOT IN THE TEMPLE.

AND YOUR FATHER'S BURIAL DEMANDS WERE QUITE SPECIFIC.

I'M NOT AFRAID! I'M NOT!

I-- I JUST DON'T LIKE THE COLD.

THERE.

I HOPE YOU'RE HAPPY, OLD MAN.

YOUR FATHER IS BEYOND HAPPINESS, AS AM I...

BUT YOUR DISPOSITION IS STILL A MATTER OF QUESTION.

CALM YOURSELF, ITTLE DESPOT. I BRING YOU GLAD TIDINGS.

SERVE ME, AS YOUR FATHER DID, AND YOU SHALL CONTINUE TO FLOURISH UNDER MY PROTECTION.

SAFE FROM YOUR ENEMIES, INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL. FREE TO PURSUE YOUR *APPETITES.*

ALL I ASK IN RETURN IS ACCESS TO CERTAIN LOCATIONS, FACILITIES, AND... ***HUMAN RESOURCES*** THAT SHALL BE PROVIDED WITHOUT QUESTION.

YOUR FATHER... ***DISPLEASED*** ME.

KRGSHH!

LIAR! ASSASSIN! IF YOU PROTECTED MY FATHER, WHY IS HE NOW DEAD?

DON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE.



GUARDING THE GLOBE
VOL. 2 #2



KHULNA, BANGLADESH.

WE GOT HIM!

=KOFF! KOFF!=

I COULDN'T FIND THE OTHER ONE. MUST BE FARTHER DOWNSTREAM.

THE GIRL COULD STILL BE ALIVE, BUT THE LITTLE GUY--

NO TIME FOR THAT. THE DOCS WILL CHECK THEM OUT ON THE TRUCK.

COME ON, MAN. THE BRIDGE IS ABOUT TO GO.

HOW GOES IT, M.G.?

BEEN BETTER. YETI'S END IS LOOKING A BIT SHAKY, SO MOVE YOUR ASSES, PLEASE.

YOU KNOW, SITUATIONS LIKE THIS, PEOPLE LOSING THEIR HOMES, THEIR FAMILIES, NATURE RUNNING AMOK--

IT MAKES YOU APPRECIATE EVERY PRECIOUS SECOND OF LIFE.

OKAY.

HOW COULD YOU?

HOW COULD YOU BE STUPID ENOUGH TO LET YOUR KID OUT OF YOUR SIGHT FOR ***ONE SECOND*** WITH ALL THIS GOING ON?

JEEZ, BRIT!

WHOA, WHOA. SHE JUST LOST HER KID, MAN.

HOW STUPID DO YOU HAVE TO BE TO WASTE SOMETHING AS *PRECIOUS*--

ENOUGH!

YOU SUPER PERSONS MAY TEAR ME IN HALF WITH A FLICK OF YOUR WRIST, BUT YOU WILL SHOW RESPECT FOR THE GRIEVING.

SHE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD YOU ARE SAYING ANYWAY, SIR.

WE'RE ALMOST CLEAR! JUST A FEW SECONDS!

MONSTER GIRL, THERE'S... SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL YOU.

OH, GOD. YOU'RE NOT ATTRACTED TO ME, ARE YOU?

PLEASE TELL ME YOU'RE NOT ATTRACTED TO ME.

NO, IT'S-- I, WELL--

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO ***SWIM.***

K-KROOM!

OF COURSE YOU DON'T.

MS. POPPER, WE'VE GOT A GROUP TRAPPED ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THAT OLD FLOUR MILL TO THE EAST.

ON IT, PEGASUS.

POP!

WHERE DO I PUT THESE FOLKS?

HEY, THIS IS KIND OF *FUN!*

I MEAN, EXCEPT FOR THE DROWNED PEOPLE PART.

THE HIGHEST GROUND YOU CAN MANAGE, INVINCIBLE-MAN, SIR.

I FEAR THE RIVER IS NOT YET DONE *HUMBLING* US.

CECIL, THINGS ARE GOING DOWNHILL HERE.

YOU NEED MORE PERSONNEL?

NO, I THINK WE'RE OKAY; WE'RE JUST GOING TO BE HERE A BIT LONGER THAN ANTICIPATED.

LET BEST TIGER AND KABOOMERANG KNOW WE WON'T BE ABLE TO RENDEZVOUS WITH THEM ON THAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING RAID.

FAILAKA ISLAND, KUWAIT.

WE'RE ON OUR OWN, THEN.

IS BETTER.

FOR YOU, MATE. I LIKE TO HAVE THE ODDS IN MY FAVOR WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

K-CHAK! SHAKK!

BEST TIGER FAVOR BEST TIGER.

TOO RIGHT.

(STAY ON THE COURSE USED FOR ALL YOUR PAST DELIVERIES. ROUSE NO SUSPICIONS.)*

(WHEN MY CLIENT DISCOVERS YOU TWO IN PLACE OF HIS NORMAL CARGO, I'LL BE LONG GONE.)

(I'LL BE BACK IN BUSINESS BY NEXT WEEK, AND YOU'LL BE CORPSES.)

*TRANSLATED FROM MANDARIN.

(RIGHT HAND.)

WHAT WERE YOU TWO ON ABOUT?

PIFF!

KRESSH!

GAH!

(STAY CALM. TAKE COVER.)

(WE'RE HERE TO HELP.)

THEY'RE ALL **BLUE**. WHY ARE ALL THE BABIES BLUE?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH BLUE?

AH, I KNOW YOU! YOU'RE ONE OF THEM **MAULER** VILLAIN DAGS.

VILLAIN? NO, I'M SIMPLY A FAMILY MAN.

I JUST HAPPEN TO WANT A VERY, VERY **BIG** FAMILY.

GROSS.

PLEASE, I'M NO SEXUAL DEVIANT. IT'S A PURELY **CLINICAL** PROCEDURE.

EVOLUTION HAS BEEN **DERAILED.** TOMORROW BELONGS TO MY PROGENY, BUT MY TIME IS SADLY LIMITED.

IT WOULD TAKE **FAR** TOO LONG TO PROCREATE BY CONVENTIONAL MEANS.

RIGHT, ENOUGH OF YOUR WHINING.

FLANG!

TAKK!

HE'S A HOLOGRAM OR SOME--

QUIET.

BAD COMING.

I WASTE NOTHING, YOU SEE. MY LESS-THAN-SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENTS ARE... REPURPOSED.

WHOOM!

AFTER ALL, IT WOULD BE A SIN TO DISCARD THE FLESH OF MY FLESH.

PKOW! PKOW!

WHAT YOU GOT, KABOOMERANG?

THAT MAULER FELLOW YOU GOT MARKED "DECEASED" IN YOUR FILE? YOU NEED TO UPDATE IT.

SPARE US A SUPER HERO OR TWO?

SAN IGNACIO MISSION, WEST OF CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO.

PSSHH!

BLUG-BLUG-BLUG!

WE DEMAND TO SEE HIM, PADRE!

BLUG-BLIP!

TINK!

WHAT'S UP, PADRE?

DO NOT TROUBLE YOURSELF, MY SON.

I TOLD THESE BOTHERSOME FOOLS THAT YOU WERE HERE TO REST AND RECOVER, NOT TO BE DISTURBED.

IT'S OKAY. TAKES A LOT TO DISTURB ME.

OUR CHILDREN, EL CHUPACABRA! THE BEAST TAKES OUR CHILDREN!

THE BEAST IN THE STEPPES, THE SHADOW OF SHADOWS.

FOR TWO WEEKS IT HAS HUNTED OUR PEOPLE. FIRST OUR CHICKENS AND LIVESTOCK... BUT NOW...

WE TIED BELLS TO THEIR ANKLES, PADRE, SO WE COULD HEAR THEM AT ALL TIMES.

BUT WE'VE LOST FOUR NOW, AND THE POLICE WE CAN AFFORD TO BRIBE ARE TOO FRIGHTENED TO EVEN SEARCH FOR THEM.

THEY TOLD US OUR CHILDREN HAD JUST RUN OFF, RUN TO THE CITY.

SOME OF US EVEN BELIEVED THAT... UNTIL WE FOUND *MARISOL.*

GOD REST HER SOUL, WHAT THE BEAST *DID* TO LITTLE MARISOL!

CAN YOU TAKE ME TO HER?

I DON'T MEAN TO BE INDELICATE, BUT I'LL NEED TO SEE HER REMAINS.

TAKE YOU, SEÑOR?

I HAVE MARISOL RIGHT HERE.

TING! TING!

GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS, UTAH.

I WISH I WAS IN BANGLADESH.

SERIOUSLY? DID YOU HEAR WHAT YOU JUST SAID?

BEATS THE HELL OUT OF BORING-ASS SENTRY DUTY. HELL, I'D TAKE A **CAR WASH ROBBERY** RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

HMMM.

I CAN THINK OF A NICE WAY TO KILL SOME TIME.

I WOULDN'T HAVE IF I'D KNOWN YOU'D BE SO **UPTIGHT** ABOUT IT.

OKAY, I GET IT. I'M SUPPOSED TO APOLOGIZE TO **YOU** NOW?

EXCUSE ME? ARE YOU--

ARE YOU **COMING** ON TO ME?

WHATEVER. I JUST NEVER TOOK YOU FOR THE OLD FASHIONED TYPE.

ACTUALLY, I'M MORE OF A ONE-PARTNER-AT-A-TIME TYPE. SORRY IF THAT MAKES ME A--

Pop!

SORRY TO INTERRUPT, BUT WE NEED YOU TWO IN KUWAIT.

YOU'RE NOT INTERRUPTING ANYTHING, DEAR.

KUWAIT SOUNDS JUST **GREAT** ALL OF A SUDDEN.

FAILAKA ISLAND, KUWAIT

YOU WERE SAYING?

SOMETHING IS AMISS.

YOU MEAN BESIDES OUR LITTLE ROBOT GIRL NOT PITCHING IN AGAINST THE SUPER VILLAIN AND HIS BIG, BAD MONSTERS?

THIS IS DEEPLY UNCHARACTERISTIC BEHAVIOR FOR ALL PAST MAULER CLONES ENCOUNTERED TO DATE.

FURTHER INVESTIGATION IS REQUIRED. MS. POPPER, PLEASE FOLLOW ME.

YOU FOOLS ARE DESTROYING YOUR OWN FUTURE, DON'T YOU SEE?

THARKOOM!

MY CHILDREN WILL BE THE PATHFINDERS THROUGH THE BLASTED DEBRIS OF YOUR FALLEN WORLD!

FOOM!

GUYS, GUYS! WATCH THE NURSERY!

HE SEEM NUTTIER THAN THE USUAL MAULER GUYS?

POM!

THEY ALL BLUR TOGETHER AFTER A WHILE, TO BE HONEST.

TROUBLING.

YOU MIND TELLING ME WHAT WE'RE LOOKING AT? YOU'RE GOING SO FAST THOSE SCREENS LOOK LIKE ***STROBE LIGHTS.***

HE'S BUILDING A ***BOMB.***

EH, I'VE SEEN BETTER.

IT'S NOT AN EXPLOSIVE, MS. POPPER. FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, THIS COULD BE CALLED A ***GENE BOMB.***

ALL OF THOSE INFANTS ARE THE RESULTS OF MAULER'S EXPERIMENTS WITH IMPLANTING HIS OWN DNA IN MULTIPLE HOSTS.

I KNOW ABOUT THE BIRDS AND THE BEES, HON.

THAT'S THE POINT. HE ISN'T TRANSMITTING HIS GENETIC HERITAGE VIA SEXUAL REPRODUCTION, AT LEAST NOT DIRECTLY.

HE'S CREATED A VIRUS THAT REWRITES THE GENETIC CODE OF THE INFECTED, REORDERING THE SEQUENCE OF NUCLEOTIDES IN THE CHROMOSOMES OF THE HOST TO MIRROR MAULER'S.

WHEN THIS THING GOES OFF IT WILL ALTER THE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEMS OF EVERY MALE FOR A TWENTY KILOMETER RADIUS, AND THEY WON'T EVEN FEEL A THING.

UNTIL MONTHS LATER, WHEN THEIR MATES GIVE BIRTH TO ***LITTLE BLUE BABIES.***

UGH.

IT'S A ***RAPE BOMB.***

INDEED. ONE WE MUST LOCATE BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE. I SEE OVER ***FOURTEEN*** CANDIDATE LOCATIONS LISTED.

BETTER GET STARTED THEN.

Pop!

TURKEY

EGYPT

SAUDI ARABIA

YEMEN

DPRK SUBMARINE BAEKDU, ONE THOUSAND METERS BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THE NORTH PACIFIC.

APPROACHING **TEST DEPTH,** COMMANDER. CABIN PRESSURE AT UNSAFE LEVELS.

STAY ON COURSE, COMRADE. OUR **PASSENGER** HAS NOT YET REACHED HIS DESTINATION.

PASS-- PASSING TEST DEPTH. FIFTEEN HUNDRED METERS.

APPROACHING **MAXIMUM OPERATING DEPTH.**

GAAAHH!

EIGHTEEN HUNDRED METERS, COMMANDER. **C-CRUSH DEPTH** APPROACHING.

ST- STAY... ON...

COMMANDER?

SPASSSSHHH!

HULL BREACH!

WE... HAVE TO **SURFACE...** WHILE WE STILL CAN!

BELAY THAT, COMRADES.

I THINK WE'RE HERE.

FAILAKA ISLAND, KUWAIT.

CAN'T... GET ANY LEVERAGE.

LITTLE HELP HERE?

WHUUSH WHUUSH

CHOKK!

BOOM!

FLOOM!

AAAIIEEE!

NO!

NO, DON'T RUN PAST THE PERIMETER!

GAAAHHH!

ZZZDAKKK!

YOU'LL DAMAGE OUR CHILDREN!

RUINING EVERYTHING! YOU'RE RUINING EVERYTHING!

ZZZDAKKK!

OUT OF MY WAY, IDIOT!

I HAVE TO DEACTIVATE THE COLLARS BEFORE THOSE HARLOTS DAMAGE MY CHILDREN.

WHERE'S THE BOMB?

ZAK!

BOMB? WHY WOULD I BUILD A BOMB? YOU MEAN THE VIRUS DISPERSAL UNIT?

WHICH TARGET LOCATION DID YOU FINALLY CHOOSE?

KUWAIT CITY, OF COURSE. NOT THAT THERE'S ANYTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT.

GOT THAT, MS. POPPER? KUWAIT CITY, 29°22'N AND 47°58'E.

ZAK!

I'M THERE RIGHT NOW, BUT I DON'T SEE ANY BOMB.

STOP WASTING TIME, MAULER. GIVE ME THE EXACT LOCATION.

THERE'S NO BOMB AT THOSE COORDINATES.

WHY *WOULD* THERE BE?

I ACTIVATED IT FOUR MONTHS AGO.

I HAD LONGED TO WATCH THE NEXT GENERATION GROW UP IN PERSON, BUT THANKS TO YOU, THAT IS NO LONGER FEASIBLE.

BUT I'M A *YOUNG MAN.* PLENTY OF TIME TO START A NEW FAMILY...

ELSEWHERE.

FSSSH!

HEADS UP! MAULER'S MAKING A BREAK FOR IT.

PHOOM!

AN *ESCAPE POD?* GUY'S *THOROUGH.*

BASTARD FORGOT WHO HE WAS DEALING WITH.

KA-THOOM!

FWUU-FWUU-FWUUH!

OUTRUN.

ON MY WAY.

FWOOSH!

OF COURSE. NO BODY.

WHICH ONE OF YOU VOLUNTEERS IS TELLING CECIL WE LET ONE GET AWAY?

WE NEED TO GET BACK TO HEADQUARTERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

WE'LL HAVE TO COORDINATE WITH THE KUWAITI GOVERNMENT IN SETTING UP A QUARANTINE PROTOCOL OF SOME KIND, PLUS A REGISTRY OF THE INFECTED.

I'LL NEED ROBOT AND A FIELD TEAM OF SCIENTISTS TO BREAK DOWN EVERY BYTE OF INFORMATION IN THAT LAB.

FORGET ALL THAT, KID.

ANYONE HERE KNOW HOW TO CHANGE A DIAPER?

CUMBRES DE MAJALCA NATIONAL PARK, CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO.

EL CHUPACABRA HERE.

YOU'RE UP LATE.

YOU'RE ONE TO TALK, CECIL. DOING A BED CHECK ON ME?

AM I THAT TRANSPARENT?

ACTUALLY, I'M UP WORKING THE CASE I LOGGED THIS AFTERNOON.

I'VE TRACKED WHATEVER IS PREYING ON THE VILLAGERS TO A DISUSED PORTION OF A NEARBY STATE PARK.

I'VE GOT YOU ON GPS.

SKRUNCH!

MADRE DE DIOS.

THERE MUST BE HUNDREDS OF REMAINS HERE. ONLY A FEW HUMAN, THANK GOD.

WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S CERTAINLY NOT SHY ABOUT COVERING ITS TRACKS.

YOU CAN READ THAT TWO WAYS, FRIEND. EITHER IT'S TOO STUPID TO KNOW ANY BETTER...

OR IT'S TOO *VICIOUS* TO CARE.



GUARDING THE GLOBE VOL. 2 #3



BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

NORMALLY THIS SORT OF THING ISN'T MY STYLE--

BUT FOR YOU, I'LL MAKE AN EXCEPTION.

IT'S APPRECIATED, SON. THE STRAIGHT RAZOR IS WHAT I COME UP ON. NEVER DID GET A DECENT SHAVE OUT OF THEM PLASTIC DOOHICKEYS.

GOTTA LOOK GOOD FOR MY GRAND-BABY GRADUATING THE NAVAL ACADEMY, YOU KNOW.

SURE, POPS, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO BE STILL LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO SHAVE YOU.

I'M A LITTLE OUT OF PRACTICE WITH ONE OF THESE.

BEHOLD, THE SECRETS OF THE VETERAN SUPERHERO.

YEAH, I THOUGHT CECIL WANTED US TO TAG ALONG WITH YOU TO PICK UP SOME POINTERS ON BUSTING UP SUPER-VILLAINS--

NOT SWEEPING UP HAIR CLIPPINGS.

DON'T LET THE FINER POINTS OF THIS LESSON ESCAPE YOU, KID THOR.

I MADE SOME GOOD MONEY IN MY LIFE. I FIGURE I OWE IT TO MY OLD NEIGHBORHOOD TO HELP OUT IN SOME WAY.

SO, WHEN I GET SOME TIME OFF FROM SAVING THE UNIVERSE, I COME IN HERE AND CUT HAIR FOR FREE.

NOT NEARLY ENOUGH. MOST DAYS IT'S JUST ME AND ARVELL, AND NEITHER ONE OF Y'ALL CAN DO LADIES' HAIR.

OKAY, POPS, YOU'RE ALL SET. PASS MY CONGRATULATIONS ON TO YOUR GRANDDAUGHTER.

I WILL AT THAT. THANK YOU AGAIN, YOUNG MAN.

WHEN PEOPLE ARE DOWN AND OUT, THEY HAVE TO LET THINGS LIKE LOOKING PRESENTABLE SLIDE.

IT ISN'T MUCH, BUT MY SHOP HELPS THEM LOOK GOOD FOR JOB INTERVIEWS, COURT APPEARANCES, PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS, WHATEVER.

HELL, IT COULD BE THIS WORK HERE DOES MORE GOOD THAN ALL THE ASS-WHIPPINGS I'VE DISHED OUT OVER MY WHOLE CAREER.

SURE, BUT SOME OF THESE PEOPLE LOOK LIKE THEY COULD AFFORD A HAIR CUT ON THEIR OWN, DON'T THEY?

SO I SHOULD STOP GIVING THEM TO THE ONES WHO ***CAN'T?*** YOU EXPECT ME TO ***MEANS TEST*** A FADE?

TAKE A LOOK AT THAT LINE, KNOCKOUT. FOLKS DON'T WAIT IN LINES LIKE THAT FOR SOMETHING UNLESS IT'S IMPORTANT, FREE OR NOT.

WHAT WE DO HERE-- ***THIS PLACE--*** IT'S IMPORTANT TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

BESIDES, I LIKE IT. IT'S RELAXING.

NEXT!

WHOA.

IS THAT WHO I THINK IT IS?

KRASH!

CHECKY CASH

THE FREAKING ELEPHANT HIMSELF.

OUTTA MY WAY!

AND WITH THE WAY HE TRASHED MY SHOP--

AW, NO WAY.

LOOKS LIKE YOU GET YOUR WISH, KNOCKOUT. ONE SUPER-VILLAIN TO BE BUSTED.

BUSTED HARD!

FOOM!

THE HELL? YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE GUARDING THE GLOBE, NOT *BALTIMORE.*

LAST TIME I CHECKED, BALTIMORE WAS ON THE MAP, DUMB ASS.

K-KRONK!

STAY RIGHT THERE, CHIEF.

EVERYONE OKAY?

OH, YEAH. I'M GOOD.

THAT WAS *AWESOME!*

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS? *CHECKY-CASH?*

YOU KNOCKED OVER A PAYDAY LOAN STORE?

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO YOU? MAN, YOU USED TO BE A WORLD-CLASS BAD GUY.

YEAH, IN A WORLD WITH CORNER BARBERSHOPS FULL OF GOOD GUYS.

YOU THINK I'M *PROUD* OF THIS?

YOU THINK I *LIKE* ROBBING CAB DRIVERS AND TACO TRUCKS? I DO THIS BECAUSE IT'S ALL I GOT.

TRY GETTING A STRAIGHT JOB WITH MY RECORD-- HELL, WITH MY *HANDS*.

RIGHT. YOU SAYING YOU'D WORK A STRAIGHT JOB IF ONE CAME ALONG?

SURE, I GUESS.

I NEVER REALLY COULD GET INTO THE WHOLE *EVIL* THING, TO TELL THE TRUTH.

HOW ABOUT YOU START HERE TOMORROW? FIRST JOB IS FIXING UP THE DAMAGE YOU DID.

FOR REAL?

SAMSON, PLEASE.

HUSH. NOT LIKE YOU CAME SQUEAKY CLEAN, KIM.

YOU GOOD WITH THIS, ARVELL?

LONG AS I GOT YOU ON *SPEED DIAL*, MAN.

KID THOR, COULD YOU AND KNOCKOUT ROUND UP THAT CASH AND RUN IT OVER TO THE CHECKY-CASH ACROSS THE STREET?

TELL THE COPS WE GOT THE PERP IN GUARDIANS' CUSTODY.

SAMSON, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

FIGHTING CRIME.

CUMBRES DE MAJALCA NATIONAL PARK, CHIHUAHUA, MÉXICO.

WHAT IS IT, CHUPACABRA? WHAT DO YOU SEE?

NOT NOW, CECIL!

YOU ANIMAL!

WHIFF!

LOOK WHO'S TALKING. I WON'T BE AS EASY TO CATCH AS THOSE LITTLE ONES.

WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT CATCHING YOU?

SKRIPP!

GAHH!

EL CHUPAC--

BZZZTT!

HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT, EH? HOW DO YOU LIKE PREY THAT DOESN'T RUN--

SKRAKK!

--BUT FIGHTS!

I'VE HEARD ENOUGH OUT OF YOU, MONSTER!

MONSTER? MISTER, YOU NEED TO CHECK THE ROSTER. YOU'RE THE ONLY MONSTER HERE.

AWOOOOO!

ON SECOND THOUGHT...

PARIS, FRANCE.

VIVE LA FRANCE! VIVE LE BRUSIER!

VIVE LA FRANCE! VIVE LE BRUSIER!

SPEAK UP, CECIL. I CAN'T HEAR YOU.

THAT'S A GOOD SIGN, I SUPPOSE. THE POPULACE HAS GONE FROM BLAMING YOU FOR THE CITY'S DESTRUCTION TO CHEERING YOU FOR REBUILDING IT.

YEAH, WE'RE FAILING UPWARDS.

INVINCIBLE'S WITH THE EIFFEL TOWER CREW, AND WE'RE ALMOST DONE PUTTING JOAN OF ARC BACK ON HER PEDESTAL HERE. WE SHOULD BE BACK IN THE STATES SOON.

EXCELLENT. I'M SHORT-HANDED HERE. I SCRAMBLED A TEAM TO MEXICO AFTER LOSING CONTACT WITH EL CHUPACABRA.

PROBABLY STUMBLED ACROSS A TEQUILA DISTILLERY.

REGARDLESS OF HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT HIM, HE IS A GUARDIAN OF THE GLOBE, AND MISSING IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

BRIT!

WHAT IS IT, JESS? I'M SUPER BUSY.

LOOK!

JUST LOOK AT YOUR SON.

AH, HELL. THE DOCTOR SAID HE WOULD THRIVE WITH ALL THIS VISUAL STIMULATION. THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT YOU ALONG.

POOR LITTLE GUY'S OVERWHELMED. ALL THIS CHEERING CAN'T BE HELPING.

OKAY, WE'LL GET YOU GUYS OUT TO THE JET AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT RIGHT--

SIR, YOUR DOG SEEMS TO BE GETTING CARRIED AWAY.

VIVE LA FRANCE! VIVE LE BRUSIER!

LE BRUSIER, *STOP!*

FWANNG!

DOGGY!

CUMBRES DE MAJALCA NATIONAL PARK, CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO.

I'M THINKING MAYBE THAT'S OUR GUY.

I-- APOLOGIZE FOR MY REACTION. I HAD HEARD THAT YOU STRUGGLED WITH SOBRIETY.

AND WHEN I SAW YOU CROUCHING OVER THOSE KILLS--

FORGET ABOUT THAT. NOTICE THIS GUY ISN'T EXACTLY RUNNING AWAY FROM US?

THAT'S WHY I'M HERE. HE'S ONE OF MY PEOPLE.

SOMETHING MUST HAVE GONE WRONG WITH HIM, A KIND OF SICKNESS.

REGARDLESS, I'M HIS LEADER.

I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING HIM TO JUSTICE.

AT LAST! I KNEW MY ENDEAVORS HERE WOULD FINALLY BRING OUT THE BIG GUNS.

WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?

YOU AREN'T THE FIRST OF MY TRIBE TO GO FERAL, NOR THE FIRST I'VE HAD TO PUT DOWN.

OH, MY. I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT.

COME SHOW ME.

THIS-- THIS ISN'T RIGHT.

TEAR YOU APART!

I'LL TEAR YOU APART FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE!

YOU CERTAINLY SEEM STRONG ENOUGH TO DO IT. DEFINITELY STRONGER THAN THIS BODY--

LET'S TAKE YOU OUT FOR A TEST DRIVE.

SHLOOP!!

SHLUKK-KK! SLORP!

HKK-UKK!

UGH!

RRRAAGGH!!

NOW THIS--

THIS IS A PROPER BODY FOR CONQUERING A PLANET!

WELL, CRAP.

ATLANTIS.

SOMETHING IS AMISS, LORD AQUARUS.

DISASTER HAS BEFALLEN OUR CITY WHILE WE EXPLORED THE HIDDEN DEPTHS.

I CAN SEE THAT. THE CORAL TEMPLE LIES IN RUINS, MY PEOPLE IN HIDING OR DEAD. WHO COULD HAVE--?

LOOK, SIRE! SURFACE MEN.

OF COURSE. CHARGE THE ***BIOELECTRIC GUNS,*** TYPHLON.

WHOEVER WREAKED SUCH HAVOC ON OUR HOME WILL BE REPAID ***IN KIND.***

THERE! EMERGING FROM THE HOLY SEPULCHER OF ***PHYSALIS.*** THE TREASURES WITHIN MUST HAVE BEEN HIS GOAL.

WHAT MANNER OF BEING IS THAT?

A DEAD ONE.

TYPHLON, ***NO!***

BLAMMM

YOU FOOL, HE'S WEARING THE CREST OF PHYSALIS!

ANY ENERGY DIRECTED AT HIM IS SIMPLY ABSORBED--

--AND REFLECTED!

K-KRAZZADAKK!

PHOOM

CUMBRES DE MAJALCA NATIONAL PARK, CHIHUAHUA, MÉXICO.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, LITTLE HERO? SHOW ME WHAT SORT OF POWERS YOU HAVE.

PERHAPS I'LL UPGRADE TO YOUR BODY AFTER ALL.

NO, THANK YOU.

WHOOF!

FTOOM!

WHOA!

I THOUGHT CECIL WAS OVERREACTING, SENDING US DOWN HERE WHEN YOU WOULDN'T ANSWER YOUR PHONE--

BUT I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THE PARTY WOULD SOMEHOW FIND YOU.

ST- STAY AWAY FROM THAT THING!

WHAT, WOLF-MAN? HE'S A *GOOD GUY*. HOW DID YOU PISS HIM--

SHRAKK!

GRAAH!

FANTASTIC! MORE OF YOU. NOW, WHICH OF YOU LOOKS LIKE A GOOD FIT?

OUTRUN, KEEP DOGBREATH OCCUPIED WHILE I TRY TO FIGURE ALL THIS OUT.

LOOK AT *YOU* GIVING ORDERS.

PLEASE?

UNCLENCH. I'M ON IT.

WHOOSH

CAN YOU HEAR ME?

DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? HOW THAT THING GOT CONTROL OF YOU?

PLEASE, SIR. LIVES DEPEND ON IT.

A-- A *HIVE*-- IT WANTS TO TURN-- A *HIVE*.

WHAT? IT WANTS TO TURN *WHAT* INTO A HIVE?

OH, GOD, DON'T-- *MAKE* ME. DON'T MAKE ME REMEMBER THAT!

US.

ALL OF US.

I-- I WAS IN NEW YORK-- IN MY *HUMAN* FORM.

THERE WAS SOME SORT OF ALIEN ATTACK-- SO HARD TO REMEMBER. SUPERHEROES AND DESTRUCTION EVERYWHERE.

IT WAS IN THE RUBBLE-- JUST A TINY LITTLE BLOB OF JELLY, LIKE A FISH EGG, ONLY WHEN I BENT DOWN TO LOOK--

IT JUMPED *INSIDE* OF ME.

GROSS.

THE GROSSEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO ME-- AND I'M A *FREAKING WEREWOLF.*

IT'S FROM SPACE OR ANOTHER DIMENSION OR SOMETHING. IT WANTS TO USE US AS HOSTS, *BREED* INSIDE OF US.

THAT'S WHY IT MADE ME DO THOSE-- THOSE *HORRIBLE* THINGS. IT EXPLOITED MY INSTINCTS, MY POWERS.

IT WANTED TO LURE YOU PEOPLE HERE SO IT COULD STEAL YOUR BODIES, UPGRADE TO YOUR *POWERS.*

AW, HE'S NOT SO TOUGH. HASN'T EVEN LAID A PAW ON ME.

PLAMM!

SEE, I THINK HE'S DOWN FOR THE COUNT.

OUTRUN, *NO!*

WHOA!

FWAKK!

=UFF!=

SHWOOP!

SPAK-LUNK!

SPLUNK!

GULP.

JAPANDROID!

JOKE'S ON YOU, SPACE-BUG. SHE'S NOT EVEN AN ORGANIC BEING.

THAT... MATTERS LITTLE...

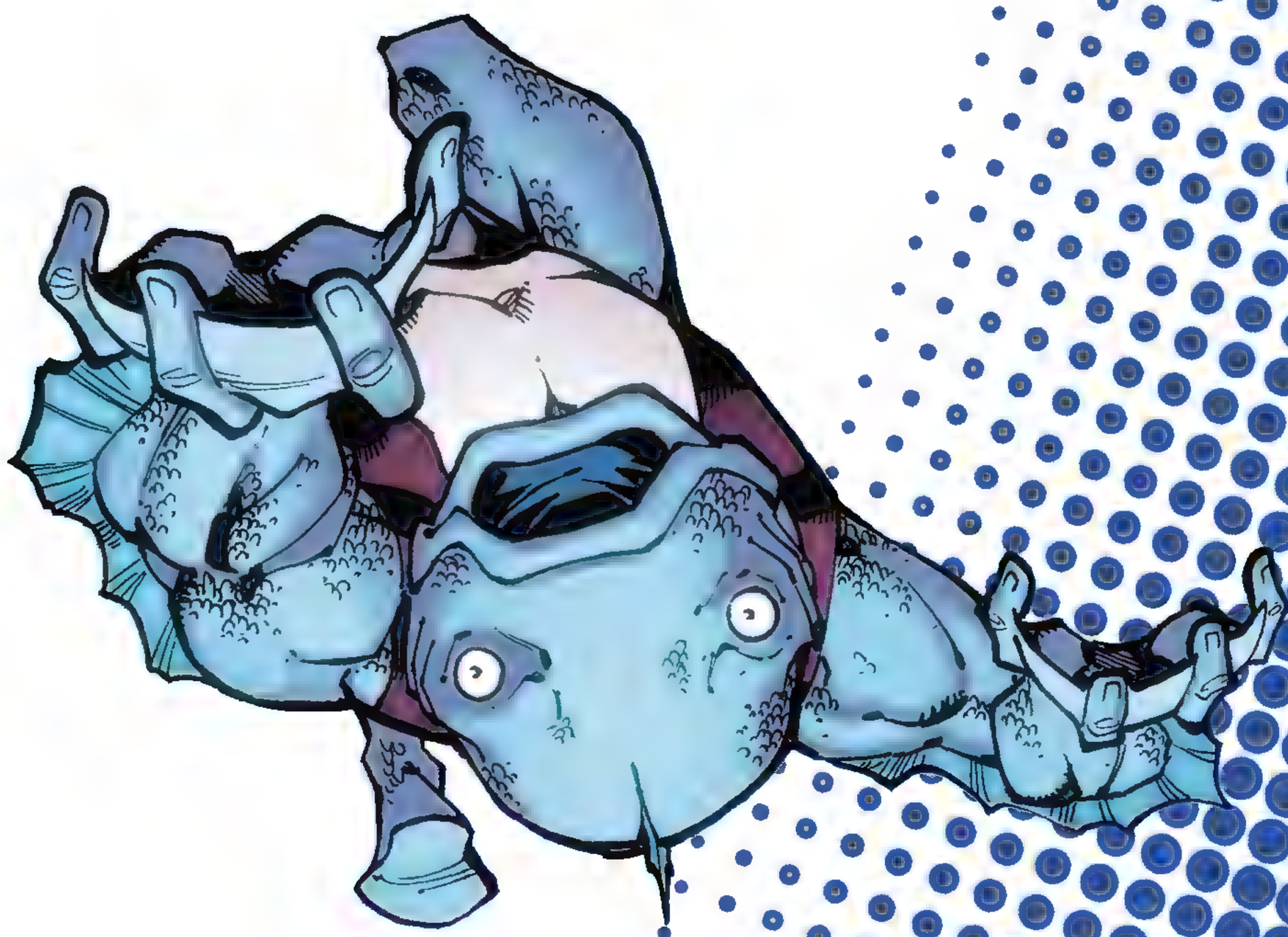
TO *OUR* KIND.

WE'VE ADAPTED TO COUNTLESS SPECIES ON INNUMERABLE WORLDS.

DID YOU REALLY THINK THIS WOULD BE MY FIRST SYNTHETIC HOST?

IN FACT, I *PREFER* IT.

THAT IS *SO* NOT GOOD.



GUARDING THE GLOBE
VOL. 2 #4



YES! ORGANIC BODIES ARE SUCH MESSY VESSELS.

THIS-- THIS IS A *PRECISION INSTRUMENT!*

UH, WHAT DO I DO HERE, GUYS?

WHAT DO I DO?

A LITTLE ANTISEPTIC, PERHAPS, BUT QUITE EFFICIENT.

SHE WILL BE THE PERFECT FORM FROM WHICH TO STRIKE AT YOUR MOST POWERFUL HEROES...

AND BREED WITHIN THEM.

NEGATIVE.

SYSTEM... OVERRIDE COUNTERED...

HEY!

NICE TRY, ROBOT.

BUT I DO YOUR THINKING NOW.

SO SMALL, BUT SO VERSATILE.

GRAAHH!

SHLAKK!

K-KRAK!

SWOOSH!

LITTLE HELP?

SORRY. I WAS KIND OF FREAKED OUT THERE FOR A SECOND.

BETTER LATE THAN... NEVER MIND.

SO MANY FORMS THIS BODY CAN TAKE.

SHRIPP! SHLAKK!

WHY LIMIT MYSELF TO YOUR DISGUSTING BIPEDAL GAIT?

OH, GOD. THIS IS TOO MUCH. LET'S GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!

NO. THIS CAN'T GO ANY FARTHER.

LOOK AT WHAT IT'S DOING WITH JAPANDROID.

IMAGINE THAT THING GAINING CONTROL OF INVINCIBLE OR MS. POPPER.

THERE'D BE NO STOPPING IT. IT WOULD OVERRUN THE PLANET IN DAYS.

THRUPP!

WE END IT HERE AND NOW.

KRAKK!

SPZZAK!

AG-G-GREEE--EED.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE JAPANDROID!

JAPANDROID, CAN YOU HEAR ME, KID?

P-PP--PLEASE STAND CLEAR.

ATT- TEMPTING TO EXPOSE AL-ALIEN HOST TO--NUCLEAR CORE.

WHOA-- WAIT A MINUTE. A *MELTDOWN?*

WON'T THAT FRY US, TOO? I MEAN-- *YOU?*

IRR- RELEVANT--

MUST STOP-- HERE--- NOW--

I HAVE SEEN--- ITS MIND.

IT CARRIES MILLIONS OF FERT-- ILIZED EGGS. IT CANNOT BE-- ALLOWED TO ESSS-- CAPE.

WAIT! WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

NOT-- ONE-- MOLECULE.

LET ME OUT! LET ME OUT OF HERE!

PLONG! PLONG!

KRUNCH!

GET BACK. SHE'S MELTING DOWN!

OH, MY GOD.

KID!

KID, SAY SOMETHING!

SAY...

SOMETHING...

CONGRATULATIONS, GUARDIANS.

WE JUST SAVED THE WORLD AGAIN.

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA.

DISTRICT TRACK AND FIELD FINALS.

DONNY DEFINITELY GETS HIS SPEED FROM YOUR SIDE OF THE FAMILY.

HE'S JUST PACING HIMSELF.

IT'S A TWO-MILE, NOT A *MARATHON*. HE'S ABOUT TO GET *LAPPED*.

I SHOULD GET DOWN ON THE TURN AND TELL HIM TO KICK.

RELAX, DONALD. TRY AND ENJOY THIS FOR WHAT IT IS.

SEEING MY KID HUMILIATED?

NO, APPRECIATING WHAT YOU *HAVE*. ENJOYING THINGS THE WAY THEY ARE.

JESSICA BROUGHT BRIT JR. OVER THE OTHER DAY.

HE'S JUST A LITTLE DOLL, I LOVE THE KID, BUT THE FEAR IN JESSICA'S EYES-- THE UNCERTAINTY.

THERE'S SO MUCH THEY SIMPLY DON'T KNOW ABOUT WHAT HIS AUTISM WILL MEAN FOR HIS FUTURE.

HE COULD LEAD A FULFILLING LIFE, SOMEDAY START A FAMILY OF HIS OWN, OR...

ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT, DESPITE ALL THE WEIRDNESS IN OUR LIVES, WAS HOW **LUCKY** WE ARE THAT DONNY IS HEALTHY AND HAPPY--

AND ABOUT TO GET PASSED BY THE FAT KID.

DONALD!

SERIOUSLY, THAT SHOT-PUTTER IS RIGHT ON HIS ASS. HE'S GOING TO FINISH LAST AGAIN.

HE'S RIGHT BEHIND YOU, DONNY! **YOU HEAR ME?**

YOU GOTTA **KICK**, SON! **DON'T LET HIM PASS YOU!**

Chikk-whhrrrrr-- bzzzz!

DO-- NOT-- LET-- THE-- FAT-- KID-- PASS-- YOU!

FAT KID?

UH... FINE LOOKING BOY YOU HAVE. FASTER THAN HE LOOKS.

I'LL BE IN THE CAR.

GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON, D.C.

UNITED STATES PENTAGON

Parking in Rear

NO SIGN OF LIFE. NONE AT ALL.

I'M SORRY, ROBOT.

ACTUALLY, I'M SCANNING FOR THE ALIEN ENTITY. THE FACT THAT I CAN'T FIND ITS LIFE SIGNS IS A GOOD THING.

IT MEANS JAPANDROID DIDN'T DIE IN VAIN.

I WISH-- I WISH WE COULD BE THERE WITH YOU, BUT HER BODY-- THE RADIATION.

UNDERSTOOD. IT REMAINS QUITE DANGEROUS.

I PLAN TO ABANDON THIS BODY HERE ONCE I COMPLETE MY EXAMINATION AND SECURE HER CONTAINMENT UNIT.

OH, GOD. NOT AGAIN. IT HAPPENED AGAIN.

LET IT GO, CHUPACABRA. YOU MADE THE RIGHT CALL.

NOTHING I WOULD HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY.

BUT SHE-- SHE--

OH, GOD.

SOMEONE STAY WITH HIM. HE'S GOING TO WANT A DRINK.

I'M ON IT.

YOU'RE SAYING THERE'S NO HOPE. SHE'S REALLY *GONE?*

TO TELL THE TRUTH, THERE'S NO WAY TO KNOW FOR SURE.

THERE'S SO MUCH ABOUT HER WE'LL NEVER KNOW.

WHAT'S HE DOING WITH THAT BLACK STUFF?

HE'S BUILDING A SHIELD AROUND HER BODY. CONTAINING THE RADIATION.

IT LOOKS LIKE A COFFIN.

WHAT ELSE *SHOULD* IT LOOK LIKE?

SHE JUST APPEARED A FEW YEARS AGO, KICKING ASS, SAVING LIVES, PUTTING EVERYTHING SHE HAD ON THE LINE FOR THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN.

AND SOON, WITH US, THE WHOLE WORLD.

DESPITE ALL MY EXPERTISE, I NEVER GOT A REAL HANDLE ON JUST WHAT SHE WAS.

I CAN'T-- I CAN'T WATCH THIS.

A COMPLEX ANDROID? A REMOTELY PILOTED ROBOT? A NEW FORM OF SENTIENT, SYNTHETIC LIFE?

WHO MADE HER, FOR WHAT PURPOSE-- NONE OF THAT MATTERS ANYMORE.

ALL I KNOW FOR SURE IS...

SHE MADE HERSELF A HERO.

HOW LONG?

EXCUSE ME?

HOW LONG YOU *TAKE BODY* OF OUTRUN?

YOU NEED TO BRUSH UP ON YOUR ENGLISH, TIGER. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

YOU ***NOT*** OUTRUN.

YOU NOT TALK LIKE OUTRUN. YOU NOT MOVE LIKE HER. YOU MORE SLOW.

SLOWER. YOU MEAN SLOWER.

YES. SLOWER. OUTRUN LOVE SPEED.

YOU HESITATE IN BATTLE. YOU ***FEAR*** SPEED.

I'LL SHOW YOU SPEED.

FWOOSH!

THUP! THUP! THUP!

NO ONE'S FASTER THAN ME.

IMPOSSIBLE.

NOT FASTER.

WHUUUSH!

WHOOSH!

THAP!

WAP!

THAP!

KNOW NOT WHERE YOU ARE.

ALWAYS KNOW WHERE YOU WILL BE.

WHUD!

SCREW THIS.

YOU WON'T PUT A BULLET IN YOUR FRIEND.

SHOOSH

P-KOSH!

PING-

PONG-

PLOK!

GAH!

TRUMMBBLE!

KRASH!

NOT FASTER THAN BULLET.

K-KLIK.

HOW-- HOW DID YOU KNOW? NO ONE ELSE KNEW.

YOU'RE BLINDFOLDED, FOR GOD'S SAKE!

ARMPIT.

WHEN YOU RUN, WIND WHISTLES UNDER ARM, PAST WHISKER.

YOU SHAVE *UP*, AGAINST GRAIN. OUTRUN SHAVE *DOWN*.

NO WHISTLE.

NAME NOT GOOD TIGER...

BEST TIGER.

ARMPIT WHISKERS?

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME.

I'M OUT.

IT WAS FUN WHILE IT LASTED.

PKOW! PKOW!

CAN'T SHOOT A GHOST, TIGER.

ABOUT FREAKING *TIME* SOMEONE FIGURED THAT OUT!

SO, SO GROSS.

FORTY FEET BELOW CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI TERMINUS, MUMBAI, INDIA.

THE GUARDIANS ARE ON TO ME, SET.

THAT CHINESE GUNFIGHTER--

SET?

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED HERE?

RUN! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!

AAAIIEEEE!

!RRRMMMBBLL!

GET OUT OF THE WAY!

MONSTERS! DEMONS FROM HELL!

PHOOM!

SET?

SKREEEEEE--

WHOOSH

KA-CHOOM!

OH, GOD.

WHAT-- WHAT ON EARTH COULD DO THAT TO *SET*?

AAAGGH!

ON *SET'S* EARTH, WOMAN?

OR ON MINE?



GUARDING THE GLOBE VOL. 2 #5



GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE COMMAND CENTER, WASHINGTON, D.C.

UNITED STATES PENTAGON

PIGS.

THAT'S WHAT I'M LOOKING AT RIGHT NOW.

I REMEMBER EVERY LAST DETAIL OF WHAT THAT BITCH MADE ME DO WITH EACH ONE OF YOU, YOU KNOW THAT?

EVERY DETAIL.

AW, C'MON, OUTRUN, YOU CAN'T--

DO *NOT* TELL ME WHAT I CAN AND CAN'T DO-- NOT NOW.

MAYBE I'VE ONLY KNOWN MOST OF YOU FOR A FEW WEEKS--

BUT JUST WHAT IS IT ABOUT MY CHARACTER THAT LED YOU TO BELIEVE I COULD GO FROM A RESPECTED CRIME FIGHTER TO CHAIN-SMOKING SKANK IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE?

LISTEN, LADY, I'M SORRY FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU. I REALLY AM.

BUT I'M ACCUSTOMED TO WOMEN WHO KNOW WHAT THEY WANT, ESPECIALLY FROM ME.

YEAH, YOU'RE ***BLEEDING IRRESISTIBLE,*** YOU ARE.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU WAS AWFUL, BUT BLAME THAT GHOST CHICK WHO POSSESSED YOU, ***NOT US.***

ZAN, MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST--

NAW, FORGET THAT. "NO MEANS NO," AND NOW "***YES*** MEANS NO," TOO?

I'M SUPPOSED TO BRING AN ***EXORCIST*** TO EVERY DATE?

HE'S UPSET. HE'S NOT LIKE YOU AND ME.

HE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH THE REPERCUSSIONS OF ACTIONS TAKEN WHILE WE... AREN'T QUITE OURSELVES.

PLEASE. DON'T EVEN ***TRY*** TO COMPARE WHAT WAS DONE TO ME TO YOUR WEAK--

I-- I'M SORRY, I SHOULDN'T HAVE--

FORGET IT, AMIGA. I CAN'T ASK FOR FORGIVENESS IF I'M NOT WILLING TO GIVE IT.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHAT WE DID WAS ***BAD?*** YOU KEPT SAYING IT WAS ***GOOD.***

OVER AND OVER AND OVER.

THIS ISN'T GOING SO WELL.

IT WAS HER IDEA. BETTER TO GET IT ALL OUT NOW THAN ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

SHE'S GOING TO NEED COUNSELING. SHE'S GOING TO NEED A LOT OF COUNSELING.

BEYOND THAT, THERE'S THE MATTER OF JUST HOW LONG EMBRACE CONTROLLED OUTRUN.

IT'S KNOWN THAT EMBRACE BRIEFLY POSSESSED KNOCKOUT IN PARIS, SO UNLESS SHE CAN MANIPULATE MULTIPLE TARGETS, HER INFLUENCE ON OUTRUN HAD TO BE INTERMITTENT, PERHAPS ALMOST IMPERCEPTIBLE--

JUST NUDGES HERE AND THERE, DROPPING IN AND OUT OF HER MIND AT WILL.

REGARDLESS, SHE'S SEEN THE INNER WORKING OF OUR ENTIRE OPERATION, FORGET ALL THE PILLOW TALK SHE GOT OUT OF HALF THE TEAM.

BY NOW, SET KNOWS JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT OUR SECURITY PROTOCOLS, OUR OPERATING PROCEDURES, OUR PERSONNEL--

HELL, HE PROBABLY KNOWS WHAT BRAND OF CANDY BARS ARE IN OUR SNACK MACHINES.

WE'VE ALREADY BEGUN RESETTING ALL OF OUR SECURITY MEASURES. THAT'S EASY...

BUT OUTRUN'S STATE OF MIND? THAT'S ANOTHER MATTER.

YEAH, AND CONSIDERING THE LEVEL OF PERSONAL INVASION SHE JUST ENDURED--

MAYBE-- YOU KNOW-- ***SPYING ON HER THERAPY*** ISN'T THE MOST CONSTRUCTIVE COURSE.

BLEEP!

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND. DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?

IT'S COMPLICATED.

YOU HUMANS SAY THAT ABOUT EVERYTHING.

I SAID YOU COULD GO.

THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S TRUE.

I KNOW. I-- I JUST--

I WOULD *NEVER* HURT YOU, YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?

PLEASE DON'T DO THIS. THAT WASN'T *ME*.

DON'T GET ATTACHED TO ME BECAUSE OF WHAT EMBRACE MADE ME DO.

I THOUGHT-- I THOUGHT WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN US WAS SPECIAL.

I KNOW. OH, GOD, I KNOW THAT. ONLY...

I CARED ABOUT YOU... *BEFORE*. BEFORE ALL THIS STUFF.

I ADMIRED YOU, YOU KNOW? THE WAY YOU HANDLED YOURSELF, YOUR POWERS, YOUR VOICE, ALL THAT.

I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY I HAD A THING FOR YOU.

SO WHEN YOU APPROACHED ME-- I MEAN, WHEN *EMBRACE* APPROACHED ME, I THOUGHT IT WAS MEANT TO BE OR SOMETHING.

I THOUGHT IT WAS HOW THESE THINGS WORKED.

I-- I'D NEVER *BEEN* WITH ANYONE BEFORE-- NOT LIKE THAT.

YOU MEAN... THAT WAS YOUR FIRST TIME? EVER?

EVER EVER?

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. YOU SEEM SO-- SO-- I DON'T KNOW.

I KNOW IT'S ODD. I JUST NEVER FOUND THE RIGHT PERSON, I GUESS. MAYBE THAT'S WHY THIS FEELS SO WEIRD.

I THOUGHT-- I THOUGHT IT WAS ALL FINALLY FALLING INTO PLACE.

BUT NOW THAT THIS-- THIS *THING*-- IS BETWEEN US, I'LL NEVER HAVE A CHANCE TO KNOW YOU THE RIGHT WAY.

I'LL NEVER EVEN HAVE THE CHANCE TO START OVER.

MY GOD, I'M A PRICK FOR EVEN PUTTING THIS ON YOU. I'M MAKING THIS ALL ABOUT *ME* SOMEHOW.

BETTER YOU SHOULD NEVER KNOW.

BUT I COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU KNOWING HOW TRULY SORRY I AM.

SORRY FOR US BOTH.

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA.

WHERE'S MY MAN?

COME ON, CHAMP. DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE IN BED ALREADY. IT'S STILL LIGHT OUTSIDE.

BRIT?

JESSICA, WHERE'S BRIT?

JESS!

WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU FLIPPING OUT ABOUT?

SORRY, HON. I JUST--

THERE WAS THIS THING AT WORK. SOMEONE INFILTRATED OUR TEAM, INSIDE INFORMATION WAS COMPROMISED. I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

LIKE A BAD GUY COULD SET FOOT ON THE LAWN WITHOUT ONE OF YOUR AND DONALD'S BOOBY TRAPS LAUNCHING HIM INTO ORBIT.

WHERE IS THE LITTLE GUY ANYWAY?

STARLA IS KEEPING AN EYE ON HIM.

STARLA? THE CRACKHEAD?

THE EX-CRACKHEAD, REMEMBER? YOU MADE HER GO TO REHAB BEFORE YOU HIRED HER AT THE CLUB.

SHE'S GOT A KID OF HER OWN NOW. SHE'S A 911 DISPATCHER, MARRIED, GAINED 40 POUNDS, THE WHOLE DEAL.

I NEEDED A BREAK, OKAY? THIS IS MY FIRST SHOWER SINCE TUESDAY.

WELL, LET'S NOT LET THAT GO TO WASTE.

NOT NOW, BRIT. I'M EXHAUSTED. LIKE, *REALLY* EXHAUSTED.

I GUESS BRIT, JR. CAN BE A HANDFUL.

NO, BRIT. I'VE SEEN OTHER KIDS, OTHER PARENTS. HE-- HE'S *DIFFERENT*.

I LOVE HIM MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD, BUT HE'S *NOT* NORMAL.

WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS, JESS. OVER AND OVER IT. THAT'S JUST THE WAY THINGS ARE.

AND THAT DOESN'T HELP. YOU STANDING THERE LIKE SOME KIND OF ROBOT BUZZING OUT HALF-ASSED PLATITUDES.

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY?

I WANT TO SEE IT *BOTHER* YOU. WHY DOESN'T HIS AUTISM BOTHER YOU?

I WANT TO KNOW I'M NOT IN THIS ALONE. I WANT TO KNOW YOU'RE SCARED, TOO.

I WANT TO SEE YOU WORRY ABOUT HIS FUTURE LIKE I DO.

WILL HE FIT IN AT SCHOOL? WILL HE HAVE A BEST FRIEND?

WILL HE EVER TALK TO A GIRL? WILL HE EVER KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE IN LOVE?

COME ON. I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

OH, HELL. DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE TAKING ME TO WORK. NOT NOW.

NAH, THESE GUYS CAN HANDLE IT. I'M OFF THE CLOCK.

I JUST WANT YOU TO *SEE* IT.

I GET IT. YOUR JOB DEMANDS A THICK SKIN, YOU'VE SEEN IT ALL.

SOMETHING LIKE A LITTLE BOY WITH AUTISM DOESN'T MAKE YOUR TOP TEN LIST OF TRAUMAS.

NO. THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL.

LOOK AT THEM.

"THERE'S MONSTER GIRL. HER REAL NAME'S AMANDA.

"SHE'S A SMART, SUCCESSFUL WOMAN TRAPPED IN THE BODY OF A MONSTER, ONLY WHEN SHE TURNS BACK TO HUMAN, SHE FINDS THAT BODY GROWING PROGRESSIVELY YOUNGER, MORE CHILD-LIKE.

"IT'S SLOWED DOWN NOW, BUT SHE'LL NEVER BE THE WOMAN SHE WAS. NEVER.

"AND THIS GUY, YETI.

"BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THERE'S A WORLD WHERE HE'S THE RUNT OF THE LITTER, BUT HE STILL FITS IN THERE.

"AND SHAPESMITH. GOD KNOWS WHAT HE REALLY IS, BUT HIS MIND IS JUST AS ALIEN AS HIS BODY.

"HERE HE IS, MAKING THE BEST OF IT.

"LE BRUSIER. HE'S A FREAKING **DOG**, BUT HE GIVES HIS ALL TO THIS TEAM, THIS WORLD."

"YET HE'S HERE, HELPING A WORLD THAT SEES HIM AS LITTLE MORE THAN A MONSTER.

THIS IS WHAT I SEE EVERY DAY, JESS. PEOPLE WHO AREN'T NORMAL, PEOPLE FAR LESS NORMAL THAN OUR BOY.

BUT PEOPLE WHO ARE STILL ACCOMPLISHING GREAT THINGS.

I'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH, HON. MAYBE BRIT'S AUTISM ***DOESN'T*** BOTHER ME.

BECAUSE WHEN I LOOK AT HIM, I DON'T THINK ABOUT WHAT HE ***WON'T*** BE ABLE TO DO...

BUT WHAT HE ***WILL.***

I'M SORRY. I-- I'M JUST SO TIRED.

THAT'S MY FAULT. I LET YOU BEAR ALL THIS YOURSELF.

LET'S SCHEDULE AT LEAST ONE DAY A WEEK WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THIS AT ALL.

HOW ABOUT THAT? A JESSICA DAY. YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.

SOMETHING NORMAL? SOMETHING BORING?

BORE MY BRAINS OUT.

I WANT TO GO BOWLING.

YOU'RE KIDDING.

STARLA IS IN A LEAGUE, A COUPLES LEAGUE.

COUPLES?

YOU SAID!

OKAY, OKAY!

MAYBE IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GET IN ON SOME OF THAT MONSTER FIGHT.

MUMBAI, INDIA.

WHAT AN ODD CREATURE. NOT QUITE CORPOREAL, YET NOT TRULY A SPIRIT.

YOU DIDN'T THINK I COULD HURT YOU. YOU THOUGHT YOUR SOUL WAS SAFE FROM HARM...

BUT THOTH *EATS* SOULS.

NOT HERS.

THRAM!

STILL PLAYING BY THE OLD MAN'S RULES, EH? WHAT HAS THAT EVER GOTTEN US?

HIDING YOUR FACE, THAT I APPROVE OF, BROTHER. BUT HIDING YOUR POWER?

THAT IS A FOOL'S GAME!

WHOK!

WE WERE BORN IMMUNE TO EACH OTHER'S POWER, BUT I TAKE NO CHANCES, BROTHER.

NO.

UNLIKE YOU, I *STUDY* THE PLANETS I CONQUER. I EXPLOIT THEIR GIFTS.

I TURN THE WORLDS THEMSELVES INTO MY WEAPONS!

CHOOM!

I DON'T NEED MY POWER TO BEAT YOU, THOTH, NO MATTER WHAT FATHER DECREES.

BILLIONS OF LIVES, SET.

I DRAINED BILLIONS OF LIVES TO AMASS THE POWER NEEDED TO BREACH THIS PLANE.

TRULY, IT HAS LEFT ME WEAKENED. YOU MAY EVEN BE A MATCH FOR ME.

THANKFULLY, WE BATTLE IN A CESSPOOL CHOKED WITH LIVING SOULS...

ENOUGH TO OVERPOWER YOUR TRICKERY--

AND CLAIM THIS WORLD AS MY OWN!

FAILAKA ISLAND, KUWAIT.

I ADMIRE THE POETIC IRONY OF CONVERTING MAULER'S HEADQUARTERS INTO A HOSPITAL FOR HIS VICTIMS, DONALD.

BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK THIS IS A GOOD IDEA?

KNOCKOUT COULD BE RIGHT. THAT CROWD OUT THERE IS GETTING UGLY.

I EXPECTED AS MUCH. WHEN A MANIAC MANAGES TO PIGGYBACK HIS GENETIC CODE INTO EVERY UNBORN FETUS IN THE AREA...

THE RESULTS ARE BOUND TO UPSET.

THEY ***ARE*** KIND OF CUTE, THOUGH.

TELL THEIR PARENTS THAT. A FULL FIFTY PERCENT HAVE LEFT THEM WITH US FOR GOOD, FELT THEY WERE TAINTED.

WE COULD HAVE MORE THAN A ***THOUSAND*** LITTLE MAULERS ON OUR HANDS BEFORE ALL THIS IS THROUGH.

YOU'RE A PERFECT LITTLE BOY, YES YOU ARE. JUST A LITTLE BLUEBERRY.

A SWEET LITTLE BLUEBERRY.

CECIL'S GONNA FLIP WHEN HE SEES YOUR EXPENSE REPORT, BRO.

WELL, THIS IS OUR FAULT. WE DIDN'T STOP MAULER BEFORE HE PULLED OFF HIS SCHEME. THE RESULTS ARE OUR RESPONSIBILITY.

WHAT'S THE POINT OF MAKING A PUBLIC SPECTACLE OF ALL THIS? WHY NOT HANDLE IT QUIETLY?

BESIDES PROVIDING THE NEEDED CARE TO THE VICTIMS? MAULER, LIKE MOST SUPER VILLAINS, IS A NARCISSISTIC EGOMANIAC.

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, HE WILL RETURN TO THE SCENE OF HIS CRIME.

A VICTORY LAP.

AND WE'LL BE HERE WHEN HE DOES.

TIME TO SWEEP THE CROWD AGAIN, INVINCIBLE. EVEN IN A MOB LIKE THAT, MAULER SHOULD BE EASY TO SPOT.

I'LL SAY.

SON OF A BITCH.

I'M NO ONE'S SON, ACTUALLY. MORE OF A FATHER FIGURE, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?

MAKING JOKES? YOU'RE MAKING JOKES AFTER WHAT YOU DID TO THESE PEOPLE?

SLOW DOWN, INVINCIBLE.

I TAKE IT YOU REPRESENT THE INTEREST OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE IN THIS AFFAIR?

JULIAN WALDEK, ATTORNEY. I REPRESENT MR. MAULER--

"MR. MAULER."

I HANDLE MR. MAULER'S LEGAL AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS. IT IS OUR CONTENTION THAT MY CLIENT BROKE NO LAWS IN ALTERING THE DNA OF THE NEARBY POPULACE.

ALL OF HIS RESIDENT TEST SUBJECTS SIGNED LABOR CONTRACTS EXPLICITLY GIVING HIM PERMISSION TO IMPREGNATE THEM AND CARE FOR THE SUBSEQUENT OFFSPRING.

FURTHERMORE, WE HEREBY SERVE THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE WITH A COMPLAINT DETAILING OUR INTENT TO RECOVER MR. MAULER'S ESTATE, AND RECOMPENSE FOR ANY DAMAGES RESULTING FROM YOUR UNWARRANTED INVASION OF SAID PROPERTIES.

WHOA, WHOA. WAIT A MINUTE. LET ME LOOK AT THIS.

DONALD! YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.

HEY, HOLD UP. TAKE A LOOK AT THIS. WHAT'S THIS HERE SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

EXACTLY WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, YOU NATTERING CLOWN?

LOOK. RIGHT THERE.

PLOM!

CHOOM!

DUDE!

THROKKITA! THROKKITA! THROKKITA!

INVINCIBLE!

WHAT? WE GOT LAWYERS, TOO.

I FIGURE WE'VE GOT UNTIL HE WAKES UP TO CHARGE HIM WITH SOMETHING.

RESTON, VIRGINIA.

BOWL

GUTTER BALL!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. HOW DOES SOMEBODY GET TO BE AS ANCIENT AS YOU WITHOUT PERFECTING EVERY GAME ON EARTH?

YEAH, DUDE. I SEEN YOU PLAY POOL, THROW DARTS. I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOOD AT EVERYTHING.

I AM GOOD AT EVERYTHING... EVERYTHING I CARE ABOUT.

SO, WHERE'S THE LITTLE DUDE TONIGHT?

SOME OF BRIT'S WORK FRIENDS ARE WATCHING HIM.

"HE'S IN GOOD HANDS."

UPSY DAISY!

UPSY-- UHHH.

I'VE GOT YOU, LITTLE ONE. UNCLE YETI OVERDID IT A BIT, DIDN'T HE?

AGAIN! AGAIN!

LAST CHANCE TO BREAK FIFTY, CHAMP.

BREEP! BREEP!

THROK!

YES?

I UNDERSTAND. I'LL BE THERE AS SOON AS I CAN.

YOU'RE ***KIDDING*** ME. ONE NIGHT A WEEK.

YOU PROMISED ME ONE NIGHT A WEEK, AND YOU'RE BLOWING IT THE FIRST TIME OUT.

IT'S AN EMERGENCY, HONEY.

IT'S ***ALWAYS*** AN EMERGENCY.

NOT LIKE THIS, BELIEVE ME.

NEVER LIKE THIS.

MUMBAI, INDIA.

MY GOD, ALL THOSE BODIES. THIS HAS SET WRITTEN ALL OVER IT.

Pop!

IT'S LIKE PARIS ALL OVER AGAIN.

I WOULDN'T SAY THAT, EXACTLY.

THIS TIME THERE ARE *TWO* OF THEM.



GUARDING THE GLOBE VOL. 2 #6



MUMBAI, INDIA. NOW.

AT LAST...

THIS WORLD IS MINE!

MUMBAI, INDIA. THEN.

THAT'S DEFINITELY SET, BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHO THIS OTHER GUY IS.

DOESN'T MATTER WHO HE IS. WHAT MATTERS IS WHO **WE** ARE.

HOLD UP, SAMSON. EVERYONE REMEMBERS PARIS, REMEMBERS WHAT SET DID TO US THERE.

HE SNAPS HIS FINGERS, AND WE WAKE UP IN A SEA OF CORPSES, IF WE WAKE UP AT ALL.

OR MAYBE THAT HORNED GUY SUCKS THE LIFE FORCE OUT OF MONSTER GIRL. WHO KNOWS HOW DEEP THAT GOES OR WHERE IT COMES FROM?

THAT KIND OF ENERGY COULD TURN HIM INTO A WALKING NUCLEAR BOMB.

WE SIMPLY CAN'T PUT OURSELVES INTO PLAY LIKE THAT. WE'VE GOT TO BE SMARTER.

BRIT'S RIGHT. PUTTING OUR POWERS AT THEIR DISPOSAL WOULD SIMPLY BE ADDING FUEL TO A FIRE.

SO WE JUST SIT ON OUR HANDS? WHAT KIND OF OUTFIT IS THIS?

WELL, THERE'S NO SHORTAGE OF FOLKS TO RESCUE.

AND IF WE COULD EVACUATE THE NEIGHBORHOOD WE MIGHT EVEN REMOVE THE SOURCE OF DEER-HEAD'S POWER.

SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN.

SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN? *THAT'S* OUR BATTLE CRY?

BRIT, WHAT DO WE DO ONCE WE CLEAR THE CITY? I MEAN, WHAT DO WE ULTIMATELY DO ABOUT THOSE TWO?

I LOOK LIKE I KNOW?

DAMN. THIS PLACE IS GOING TO GO ANY SECOND.

GO? IT ALREADY *WENT*.

MULTIPLE LIFE SIGNS ON THE GROUND FLOOR. THREADY.

POPPER?

PUSHED PAST HER LIMITS LONG AGO.

I SAW HER TELEPORT A GROUP OUT OF AN OVERTURNED BUS, BUT SHE ISN'T RESPONDING TO HER COM-LINK NOW. LIKELY UNCONSCIOUS.

OKAY, I'M GOING IN. SHAPESMITH, GIVE ME A LIFELINE.

STABILIZE THIS THING AS BEST YOU CAN.

HELLO?

OH, THANK GOODNESS YOU'VE COME.

ANYONE ELSE DOWN HERE?

MY LITTLE SISTERS. THE DOOR'S JAMMED, BUT I CAN HEAR THEM BEHIND IT.

I-- I THINK THEY'RE *HURT*.

YOU KNOW, YOU SPEAK PRETTY GOOD ENGLISH.

I WORK AT A CALL CENTER. PLEASE, SIR, MY *SISTERS*.

COMING.

SHAPESMITH, CAN YOU CUT ME A LITTLE SLACK?

SURE THING, BR--

SHEEOOK!

KKRRRMMMBBBLLL!

UFF!

ANYONE SEEN MY BROTHER?

I COULD SWEAR I JUST PUNCHED HIM THROUGH THIS NEIGHBORHOOD.

YOU GODDAMN ANIMAL!

KID THOR, WAIT!

FORGET THAT. THESE BASTARDS WILL KEEP FILLING UP GRAVES FASTER THAN WE CAN DIG THEM.

I'M GOING TO END THIS NOW!

THRUPP!

AH. YOU'RE ANOTHER ONE OF THESE SPECIAL HUMANS, LIKE THAT GHOST GIRL AT THE TRAIN STATION.

URKK!

YOU'RE A POWERFUL ONE, AS YOUR SPECIES GOES.

I WONDER WHAT YOUR SOUL TASTES LIKE.

NNNGGH!

MAGNIFICENT. LIKE DRINKING A THOUSAND LIVES AT ONCE.

IF THERE ARE MORE LIKE YOU TO FEAST ON, BRAVE ONE--

THIS PLANET WILL BE THE CROWN JEWEL OF MY EMPIRE.

CHUFF!

GGGRRR. RAFF! RAFF!

LE BRUSIER!

RAPP! RAPP!

I KNOW, LITTLE ONE, I KNOW. BUT I COULDN'T STAND TO SEE THAT HAPPEN TO YOU, TOO.

HE-- HE'S DEAD. HE JUST *DIED.*

ONE MINUTE HE WAS TALKING AND EVERYTHING, AND NOW HE'S JUST...

THRANNG!

OUTRUN, *MOVE!*

ARE YOU LIKE THE HAMMER BOY? DO YOU HAVE A DELICIOUS SOUL, TOO?

IF I HAD ONE, IT WOULD BE THOUSANDS OF MILES FROM HERE.

BUT I *DO* HAVE A BODY HANDY.

SHREEEOOOKK!

LET ME SHOW IT TO YOU.

DUDE! BRIT SAID NOT TO ENGAGE THEM DIRECTLY.

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, THAT PLAN'S NOT GOING SO WELL.

PHOOM!

PHOOM

IN THIS FORM I CAN'T BE HARMED BY EITHER OF THEM-- AT LEAST NOT PERM--

THRANG!

BLANG!

PATHETIC MACHINE!

WOBBLING INTO THE MIDDLE OF A WAR LIKE A TOY ROLLING AWAY FROM A CHILD.

FWOOM!

DID YOU THINK THIS SHELL COULD STAND UP TO MY POWER?

NOT REALLY. I MERELY WISHED TO STALL YOU UNTIL I COULD ARRIVE.

ARRIVE? YOUR GEARS ARE GRINDING, MACHINE. YOU'RE ALREADY *HERE.*

NOT ALL OF ME.

SHEEEDOOMM!

LET'S SEE HOW YOU DO AGAINST THE WHOLE TOY BOX.

THOOM!

THOOM!

THOOM!

THROOM!

THRANNG!

PLOOM!

ARE YOU-- =UNNGH= ARE YOU OKAY?

I CAN'T HEAR THEM. I CAN'T HEAR MY SISTERS ANYMORE.

THAT SECTION OF FLOOR IS UNSTABLE, KID.

SAMAR. MY NAME IS SAMAR.

OKAY, SAMAR. LOOK, THIS WHOLE PLACE COULD-- COME DOWN ON US ANY MINUTE.

AND THAT SIDE OF THE ROOM-- IS LOOKING PRETTY SKETCHY.

I NEED TO STAY BY THE DOOR. I NEED TO STAY CLOSE TO MY SISTERS.

CAN'T YOU JUST *THROW* THE BUILDING OFF? AREN'T YOU A SUPER PERSON?

YEAH, BUT NOT THAT KIND. I'M-- I'M JUST A GUY WHO DOESN'T GET HURT.

I'M NO STRONGER-- THAN ANYONE ELSE.

AND RIGHT NOW I'M DOING MY BEST JUST TO KEEP THIS FREAKING BEAM-- WEDGED BETWEEN US AND A FEW THOUSAND POUNDS OF CONCRETE.

THE SAFEST PLACE FOR YOU IS RIGHT-- RIGHT BESIDE ME.

BUT-- BUT WE ARE *UNCHAPERONED.* IT IS IMPROPER FOR US TO BE SO...

SO *FAMILIAR.*

KID, THAT'S THE FARTHEST THING FROM MY MIND. BESIDES, MY HANDS ARE KIND OF BUSY AT THE MOMENT.

BUT--

IT'S ALRIGHT TO BE AFRAID, SAMAR. WE ALL SAY AND DO SILLY THINGS WHEN WE'RE AFRAID.

BUT MY FRIENDS ARE TRYING TO DIG US OUT AS WE SPEAK.

AND I PROMISE YOU, IF YOU LISTEN TO ME, AND STICK CLOSE...

I'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE.

KRRR

UNNGH!

ARE YOU ALRIGHT, SIR?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

YOU SAID YOU WERE NO STRONGER THAN A NORMAL MAN.

THE LEAST I CAN DO IS HELP.

CALL-- CALL ME BRIT.

CERTAINLY, MR. BRIT.

K-KROOM!

HANG ON, SAMAR.

HANG.

ON.

CHUFF! CHUFF!

SKREEK!

THERE YOU ARE. I'VE GOT YOU.

ARE YOU INJURED? I DIDN'T THINK THAT WAS POSSIBLE.

IT'S NOT *MY* BLOOD, YOU SON OF A BITCH!

K-TANG!

AH, I SEE. NOT THE LAST BLOOD TO BE SPILLED TODAY.

BUT YOU CAN *CHANGE* THAT, BRIT. THERE'S A WAY TO END THIS CHAOS.

HELP ME.

ARE YOU *INSANE?*

I MERELY SEEK A RETURN TO THE STATUS QUO.

YOU MAY SET YOURSELF AGAINST ME AGAIN AT THE CONCLUSION OF OUR MOMENTARY ALLIANCE.

OR YOU CAN ALLOW THIS BRUTAL STALEMATE TO CONTINUE. THE SUPPLY OF READY-MADE CORPSES HERE SEEMS TO BE INEXHAUSTIBLE.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

MY BROTHER THOTH AND I BATTLE FOR PLANETS THE WAY YOUR SPECIES STRUGGLES FOR MATES OR ECONOMIC GAIN. IT IS ***OUR WAY.***

WE ARE EVENLY MATCHED, AS THE HUSKS OF DEVASTATED WORLDS IN OUR WAKE WOULD PROVE.

THOTH, AS YOU HAVE SEEN, DRAWS POWER FROM THE ENERGIES OF LIVING BEINGS.

I'VE STUDIED HIM OVER COUNTLESS BATTLES. HE BUILDS A TERRIBLE KIND OF MOMENTUM WITH HIS POWER.

IT GROWS IN WAVES, LAPPING OUT OVER THE SURFACE OF THE PLANETS WE WAR OVER UNTIL IT EMPTIES THEM OF ALL LIFE.

BUT IF HE WERE TO SUDDENLY DOUBT THIS POWER, MOMENTARILY HESITATING TO ACCESS IT FOR ***EVEN THE BRIEFEST INSTANT,*** I COULD GAIN LEVERAGE OVER HIM.

YOUR POWER COULD CAUSE THAT MOMENT OF WEAKNESS.

I MERELY WISH TO *RULE* YOUR KIND, BRIT. THOTH WISHES TO CONSUME YOU AT HIS LEISURE.

WHY NOT JUST *TAKE* CONTROL OF ME? YOU'VE DONE IT BEFORE. ISN'T THAT WHAT HAPPENED IN PARIS?

A MOMENTARY LAPSE. I OPERATE UNDER A STRICT *CODE.*

THIS IS A CONTEST OF *WORTH.* I WILL TAKE THIS PLANET WITHOUT RESORTING TO SUCH BASE TACTICS.

IT WOULD UNDERMINE MY STATUS WITH THOSE WHO STAND IN JUDGMENT OF ME.

BUT MANIPULATING A PLANET'S INDIGENOUS RESOURCES AGAINST MY BROTHER, INCLUDING ITS NATIVES, WOULD BE SEEN AS HONORABLE AND ENTERPRISING.

IT'S ALL JUST A GAME. JUST A GOD-DAMNED *GAME.*

A GAME I CAN PLAY INDEFINITELY...

BUT YOUR PLANET, ALAS, *CANNOT.*

SO YOU *PLANNED* ALL THIS?

EVERYTHING WITH THE ORDER, PARIS, POSSESSING OUTRUN, ALL THIS DEATH AND DESTRUCTION... YOU DID IT ALL TO MANIPULATE ME INTO HELPING YOU?

IN A WAY.

DO ME A FAVOR.

NEXT TIME JUST *ASK.*

THAT WAS FUN, IF A BIT OF A DISTRACTION.

THERE'S NOT EVEN ANY LIFE ENERGY TO TAKE FROM YOU.

NOR ANY FODDER NEARBY. I'LL JUST HAVE TO CAST MY NET WIDER ACROSS THIS FETID LITTLE PLANET.

KZZZTT! KZZZTT!

YOU WON'T HAVE TO LOOK THAT FAR.

SHUT UP. SHUT UP, YOU OBSCENE PIECE OF--

THROKK!

AH, ANOTHER ONE OF THE BRIGHTLY COLORED ONES. YOU ALL TASTE SO GOOD.

YOU DON'T SEEM ALL THAT POWERFUL. NOT LIKE YOUR FRIEND THERE.

BUT I'LL TAKE WHAT I CAN GET.

GO AHEAD. DRINK DEEP.

YOU'RE BRAVE. I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.

IT TICKLES.

HOW?

HOW ARE YOU STILL ALIVE?

MAYBE IT'S NOT *ME.*

NO.

NO, IT CAN'T BE.

MY POWER-- FAILING ME--

MORE LIKE YOUR BRAIN.

THOOM!

BRIT!

BRIT, ARE YOU OKAY?

YOU KNOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ABOUT A CENTURY...

I'VE GOT TO SAY NO.

I GUESS YOUR LIFE FORCE WAS BOTTOMLESS ENOUGH TO FREAK EVEN HORN-HEAD OUT.

YOU *DO* LOOK A LITTLE OLDER, MAN.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE GUYS, ANYWAY?

I DON'T KNOW. SET DROPPED THE 4:10 FROM BANGALORE ON HIS BROTHER, AND WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARED THEY WERE GONE.

IT WAS ALL SOME KIND OF FAMILY FEUD? REALLY?

WHAT THE HELL JUST HAPPENED HERE?

CAN'T YOU TELL?

WE WON.

GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE HEADQUARTERS, UTAH.

I TRIED.

I TRIED TO TELL HIM.

WHERE IS HE?

YOU DON'T WANT TO GO IN THERE, K.O.

GET OFF ME!

OH, GOD, KID... WHAT DID THEY DO TO YOU?

WHAT DID THEY DO?

THIS IS SO MESSED UP. IT DOESN'T EVEN LOOK LIKE HIM ANYMORE.

I MEAN, THERE WERE A LOT OF CORPSES LAYING AROUND. HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU GOT THE RIGHT MUMMY?

GRRRRR.

OKAY, OKAY. NO DISRESPECT.

THIS-- THIS BELONGS WITH YOU.

I COULDN'T STAND TO SEE ANYONE ELSE SWINGING THIS UGLY OLD THING AROUND.

GOOD- BYE, KID. GOOD--

GOOD-

VVVMMMMMMMMM!

KID?

VVVMMMMMMMMM!

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

--CAN'T GUARANTEE THE THREAT IS OVER, BUT IT HAS ABATED FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

CNN

SON OF A BITCH. I REALLY DO LOOK OLDER.

I REALIZE THE CASUALTIES INDIA'S SUFFERED THIS DAY ARE UNIMAGINABLE, BUT BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY, WITHOUT THE INTERVENTION OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH, MUCH--

NOT EXACTLY AGE-APPROPRIATE VIEWING FOR YOU, CHAMP.

KLIK

HEY, YOU'LL WAKE HIM.

I NEED THIS.

YOU OKAY?

NOT REALLY. I'VE BEEN AROUND SO LONG, SEEN SO MUCH, A LOT OF IT SO MESSED UP I COULD NEVER REPEAT IT.

BUT TODAY...

THE KIND OF STUFF THAT MAKES YOU WANT TO HANG IT ALL UP?

ACTUALLY, THE OPPOSITE.

TO SEE SO MANY PEOPLE GET EVERYTHING TAKEN FROM THEM IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE... I NEVER WANT THAT TO HAPPEN TO ME, OF COURSE. I COULDN'T IMAGINE LIFE WITHOUT YOU TWO.

BUT MORE THAN THAT, I NEVER WANT IT TO HAPPEN TO ANYONE AGAIN, ANYWHERE. NOT IF I CAN HELP IT.

THIS IS WHY I FIGHT, JESS. THIS RIGHT HERE.

I KNOW IT'S TOUGH TO UNDERSTAND. I KNOW I SCREWED UP OUR DATE NIGHT.

PLEASE. YOU THINK I'M GOING TO THROW THAT BACK AT YOU? ESPECIALLY NOW?

I KNEW WHAT THE DEAL WAS WHEN WE STARTED UP, BRIT. EVEN AT THE CLUB, I COULD TELL YOU WERE THE KIND OF PERSON WHO WOULDN'T LET THINGS JUST SLIDE--

REMEMBER THAT DEAL WITH KRYSTAL'S KIDS?

HOW YOU USED TO HELP THEM WITH THEIR HOMEWORK IN THE DRESSING ROOM?

HOW HER EX KEPT HASSLING HER UNTIL YOU MADE HIM SWALLOW A MOUTHFUL OF TEETH?

I KNEW RIGHT THEN, BEFORE YOU EVER SAID ONE WORD TO ME, THAT YOU WERE MY MAN.

IF YOU THINK I'M ASKING YOU TO CAGE THAT UP, TO STOP BEING THE MAN I FELL IN LOVE WITH, WELL...

BRIT?

ZZZZZZZ.



INVINCIBLE UNIVERSE
#1

HOW MANY DEAD?

LAST COUNT I HEARD WAS OVER *EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND*... SHOULD CROSS A MILLION BEFORE IT'S ALL DONE...

...COULD HAVE BEEN A LOT WORSE.

LOOK AT HIM. MY HATED ENEMY.

HE SEES HIMSELF AS A MARTYR, EVEN WHILE THE GHOSTS OF TRUE MARTYRS SWIRL IN HIS WAKE LIKE DRY LEAVES.

WILL YOU LET ME TALK TO EVE BEFORE YOU LOCK ME AWAY?

PLEASE.

I HAD A DIFFERENT IDEA, ACTUALLY.

HE TELLS HIS UNDERLINGS HE WEARS THE SCAR ON HIS FACE TO REMIND HIM OF HIS FAILINGS.

BUT IT IS ACTUALLY A BADGE OF HONOR, A MEMORIAL TO HIS OWN SELF-IMPORTANCE.

WHAT'S THAT?

EAR PIECE, JUST LIKE YOU USED TO WEAR WHEN YOU WORKED FOR ME.

HE FANCIES EACH SCAR A LIFELINE CUT SHORT BY HIS INCOMPETENCE, A ROADMAP OF DEAD ENDS.

AS IF DEATH WOULD PAUSE HIS SCYTHE FOR EVEN A SECOND TO DIP IT IN SALUTE TO HIS NEGLIGENCE.

I HEAR YOU, YOU HEAR ME--YOU DO WHAT I SAY. LIKE THE OLD DAYS...

UNLESS YOU'D RATHER GO TO PRISON?

HUMANS *DIE*, CECIL STEADMAN, NO MATTER WHAT YOUR GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY DOES TO STOP THAT.

YOU'D HAVE ME WORK FOR YOU AGAIN? AFTER ALL THIS?

THEY DIED BEFORE YOU STUMBLED INTO YOUR WORK.

THEY WILL DIE LONG AFTER YOUR GAMES COME TO AN END.

WHY NOT?

I'VE WORKED WITH *VILLAINS* BEFORE.

HE THINKS ON THIS EVEN NOW, LINGERING ON HIS OWN REFLECTION IN THE DARKNESS OF THE BOY'S EYES--

THE BOY WHO COULD TEAR THIS WORLD APART STONE BY STONE IF STEDMAN FAILS TO BRING HIM TO HEEL.

HOW HE WOULD FUME TO KNOW I COULD SEE HIM NOW.

LIKE HIM, I HAVE COUNTLESS EYES, COUNTLESS HANDS, SPREAD OVER THIS PLANET.

WOW. WAS THAT REALLY *INVINCIBLE?*

YOU USED THE DOOR. ONLY I USE THE DOOR.

OH, SORRY. THEY TOLD ME YOU WERE JUST ON THE OTHER SIDE AND I--

AGENT MARISOL VELASQUEZ REPORTING FOR DUTY. I'M YOUR NEW EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, SECOND SHIFT.

IN MANY WAYS I AM HIS **EQUAL**, THIS ENEMY OF MINE.

NEW? WHAT HAPPENED TO EDELMAN?

THE FLOOD. HE LIVED IN CHESAPEAKE BEACH. NO SERVICES SCHEDULED YET.

BUT NOW... I ***NEED*** HIM.

I SEE.

I WONDER IF YOU'RE PREPARED FOR THE LEVEL OF DISCRETION THIS POSITION REQUIRES, AGENT. WHERE WERE YOU BEFORE THIS?

FOUR YEARS AS EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, TWO FOR DIRECTOR OF THE N.S.A, THREE AS INTELLIGENCE LIAISON FOR THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT.

HMMM... I SUPPOSE THAT WILL HAVE TO DO.

I DOUBT I'LL HAVE THE TIME TO LEARN YOUR NAME, AGENT, SO YOU'LL BE GOING BY EDELMAN FOR THE TIME BEING.

UNDERSTOOD, SIR. THE LAST EDELMAN WASN'T AN EDELMAN EITHER.

HUMANS ***DIE***, STEDMAN.

HIS NAME WAS LARRY NGUYEN. THE REAL EDELMAN WAS ABOUT TEN ASSISTANTS AGO.

THEN THE SYSTEM SEEMS TO BE WORKING.

GIVE ME THE RUNDOWN, ***AGENT EDELMAN.***

AND IF WE FAIL TODAY, PERHAPS **ALL** OF THEM.

OFFICIAL CASUALTIES FROM THE TIDAL SURGE HAVE NOW TOPPED *NINE HUNDRED THOUSAND DEAD*, THIRTY MILLION HOMELESS.

THE FEMA DIRECTOR WOULD LIKE TO MEET IN THE NEXT FEW HOURS TO COORDINATE DEPLOYMENT OF SUPER HUMAN RESOURCES IN AREAS NOT READILY ACCESSIBLE TO THEIR NORMAL SERVICES.

TO THAT END, *WOLF-MAN* AND HIS TRIBE ARE ALREADY RENDERING AID TO THE ISOLATED INUIT POPULATIONS IN NUNAVUT--

RED BUTTON.

EXCUSE ME?

HIT THE RED BUTTON ON YOUR TABLET, EDELMAN. I'D LIKE TO SEE WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

BLOOP.

OH, MY.

I HAVE EYES *EVERYWHERE*.

THE ACTIONEERS ARE DEALING WITH A PRISON BREAK AT A FLOOD DAMAGED PENITENTIARY IN SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY.

AIMING LOW, AS USUAL. ARRANGE FOR KINETIC TO REPORT TO ME LATER TODAY.

MOST OF THE EMPLOYEES OF CAPES, INC. ARE SPREAD OUT ACROSS THE GULF COAST EVACUATING THE REMAINING STRANDED.

WE'VE GOT EVERY SPARE FLYER, INCLUDING TECH JACKET, PITCHING IN.

NO VISUALS, BUT EVIDENCE POINTS TO MULTIPLE RESCUES AND RECONSTRUCTIONS THAT COULDN'T HAVE TAKEN PLACE ANY OTHER WAY.

AND THE *VILTRUMITES?*

THEY WERE OUT THERE.

AGENT FERGUSON HAS A GOOD CHUNK OF THE GUARDIANS IN BANGLADESH ERECTING A TEMPORARY SEA WALL.

DESPITE THE EFFECT OF THE ARTIFICIAL MOONS, THE MAJORITY OF THE COUNTRY REMAINS BELOW SEA LEVEL.

INVINCIBLE AND COMPANY-- WELL, YOU KNOW ABOUT THEM...

AS FOR SLIGHTLY LESS PRESSING MATTERS, THE ***GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE U.N.*** IS STILL WAITING FOR A CALLBACK.

THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES UNION WISHES TO INFORM YOU THAT THE ***RESTROOMS*** ON BOTH OUR ARTIFICIAL MOONS ARE NOT A.D.A. COMPLIANT.

YOU ARE NOW ***SIX FULL WEEKS*** PAST YOUR SCHEDULED MEDICAL CHECK-UP WITH DR. KUMARI.

KID THOR IS CURRENTLY UNDERGOING A DEBRIEFING REGARDING HIS RECENT ***DEATH AND RESURRECTION*** IN CONFER--

WHAT IS ***THAT?***

LOOK AT HIM SCURRY TO AND FRO LIKE A ***SPIDER*** CONSTANTLY REPAIRING A SAGGING WEB.

VAINLY PLUCKING AT EACH FRAYING STRAND IN THE HOPES OF HOLDING IT ALL TOGETHER.

IT-- IT'S A DRAWING.

You and Me
Ella V.
MOM

ON A WORK STATION COMPUTER. WHOSE STATION IS THIS?

UH... MINE.

AGENT EDELMAN, DO YOU SEE MEMENTOS, KNICKKNACKS, TCHOTCHKES, CARTOONS, TOYS OR PHOTOS OF ANY KIND CLUTTERING *ANYONE ELSE'S* WORK STATION?

AS IF ANYTHING OUTSIDE OF HIS INFLUENCE SIMPLY DOESN'T EXIST.

I HADN'T ACTUALLY TAKEN THE TIME TO--

NO. NO, SIR.

THIS *ISN'T* THE WHITE HOUSE. THIS AGENCY REQUIRES THE UNDIVIDED ATTENTION OF EVERY LAST OPERATIVE AT ALL TIMES.

WE REQUIRE ZERO SENTIMENTALITY. NO POTENTIAL DISTRACTIONS OF ANY KIND.

SO MUCH AS A *FAMILY SNAPSHOT* MAY CAUSE YOU TO HESITATE AT THE EXACT MOMENT A COLD, CLEAR-EYED DECISION IS REQUIRED.

EVEN SOMETHING AS SMALL AS A CHILD'S DRAWING.

I-- I UNDERSTAND, SIR. IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

NOW, YOU WERE SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT *KID THOR?*

UNAWARE HOW CLOSE HE IS TO IT ALL BEING BLOWN APART BY A STRAY GUST OF WIND.

I FEEL FINE. REALLY.

I DON'T GET WHAT THE BIG DEAL IS.

YOU DON'T GET--? YOU *DIED* AND *CAME BACK TO LIFE*, KID.

OKAY, BUT I'VE SEEN WEIRDER. WE'VE *ALL* SEEN WEIRDER.

GO OVER IT ONE MORE TIME, FOR MY SAKE.

THINGS HAVE BEEN HECTIC AROUND HERE LATELY, AND I'M A BIT FOGGY ON THE PARTICULARS OF YOUR RESURRECTION.

YOU GOT *ME*, CECIL. ONE MINUTE I'M WHALING ON SET'S BROTHER IN INDIA--

AND THE NEXT I'M SITTING IN AN EXAM ROOM WITH EVERYONE STARING AT ME LIKE I WON THE LOTTERY.

BABY, YOU WERE DEAD. **DEAD** DEAD.

COLD FLESH, HOLLOW EYES, CRUMBLING SKIN, THE WHOLE DEAL.

AND YOU WERE IN THAT STATE FOR **HOURS.** ARE YOU TELLING US YOU HAVE NO MEMORY OF THAT TIME SPAN?

NO. I-- I HAD THIS CRAZY DREAM ABOUT BEING THROWN OUT OF A BAR AT A **SKI RESORT.**

BIG, BLOND **LADY BOUNCERS** TOSSING ME OUT IN THE SNOW.

NOTHING SEXUAL, HON.

GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, BOLT.

HAD TO SEE WHAT'S UP WITH MY OLD PARTNER, CECIL.

YOU ACQUITTED YOURSELF QUITE NICELY DURING THE RECENT CRISIS. I COULD USE YOU IN THE COMING DAYS.

LATER, OKAY? MY FRIEND JUST CAME BACK FROM THE DEAD.

DIRECTOR, SHOULD I BE-- YOU KNOW-- **TAKING NOTES** ON ALL THIS?

YES, BUT I DON'T NEED A RECAP OF THE FACTS, THERE'S SURVEILLANCE PLAYBACK FOR THAT SORT OF THING.

I WANT YOUR **IMPRESSIONS.**

YOUR THOUGHTS, YOUR **FEELINGS.**

YOU SEE, I'VE BEEN ACCUSED OF HAVING A **SINGULAR VISION,** TO PUT IT POLITELY.

I SOMETIMES NEED ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE ON THE DAY'S EVENTS TO MAKE CONSIDERED DECISIONS.

OH, WELL... I WOULDN'T--

JUST LET IT FLOW, EDELMAN. PUT "DEAR DIARY" IN THE HEADER IF IT HELPS.

KNOCKOUT, TELL ME AGAIN EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED IN THE EXAM ROOM.

WELL, I WAS FEELING PRETTY BROKEN UP, OF COURSE. I WAS JUST CRYING, NOT KNOWING WHAT TO DO NEXT.

HE LOOKED SO-- SO--

I MEAN, HE DIDN'T EVEN *LOOK* LIKE KID THOR ANYMORE.

I HAD THESE CRAZY THOUGHTS THAT IT MIGHT NOT EVEN REALLY *BE* HIM.

THAT MAYBE WE SCOOPED UP THE WRONG CORPSE IN MUMBAI AND I WAS MOURNING SOME POOR DEAD BUS DRIVER OR SOMETHING.

BUT WHEN I SAW THE HAMMER ON THE FLOOR NEXT TO HIM I *KNEW*. I KNEW THAT IT WAS REALLY OVER.

AND IT JUST SEEMED RIGHT THAT THE HAMMER SHOULD BE WITH HIM.

WHEN I PUT IT ON HIS CHEST HE STARTED TO GLOW AND-- WELL, YOU'RE LOOKING AT IT.

FEEL *GREAT*, REALLY

I THINK IT'S SAFE TO ASSUME THE ***HAMMER ITSELF*** IS KEY TO YOUR CONDITION. IT'S BEEN PASSED DOWN YOUR FAMILY LINE SINCE...

SINCE ***FOREVER.***

AND PERHAPS SINCE YOU DON'T PRESENTLY ***HAVE*** ANY OFFSPRING TO PASS IT TO, IT HUNG ON TO ***YOU.***

HUH. I GUESS.

YOU MIND IF I TAKE A LOOK AT IT?

SURE, GO AH--

SMASH

NO! NOT AGAIN!

PUT IT BACK! PUT IT BACK!

FWASH!

WHOA.

GOD, I HATE MAGIC.

YEAH, I'M GOING TO GET TO WORK ON A SET OF GLOVES OR SOMETHING THAT WILL KEEP YOU IN CONTACT WITH THE HAMMER AT ALL TIMES.

ALL TIMES?

YOU'LL GET USED TO IT.

ALL RIGHT, THEN. WE'LL SCHEDULE SOME COUNSELING SESSIONS WITH IMMORTAL, KID THOR. HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A LITTLE INSIGHT TO YOUR SITUATION.

AS FOR THE REST OF YOU, AGENT EDELMAN HAS A LIST OF ACTION ITEMS I'D LIKE TACKLED A.S.A.P.

BRIT, IF YOU COULD ASSEMBLE A TEAM TO--

ASSEMBLE? YOU GOT US MIXED UP WITH SOMEONE ELSE, STEDMAN.

ZAN'S RIGHT. IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, WE'VE BEEN RUN RAGGED OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS WITH THIS DINOSAURUS STUFF.*

I HAVEN'T SEEN MY FAMILY IN ALMOST A WEEK.

I HARDLY THINK *THAT'S* AN EXCUSE--

*IT WENT DOWN IN **INVINCIBLE** #98-100.

WE'RE NOT ROBOTS-- NO OFFENSE, ROBOT-- WE HAVE LIVES.

SOME OF US, LIKE BOLT AND BRIT, HAVE ***KIDS.***

IN A WAY, I HAVE CHILDREN, TOO, OUTRUN.

SEVEN BILLION OF THEM, TO BE EXACT, AND A STARTLINGLY LARGE PERCENT-AGE OF THEM SEEM BENT ON DESTROYING THE NURSERY.

YOU'RE TIRED. ***I'M*** TIRED.

BUT WE'RE THE ONLY THING STANDING BETWEEN THOSE CHILDREN AND ***TOTAL DESTRUCTION.***

BUT IF YOU'RE TOO TIRED FOR THE JOB, I SUGGEST--

SHLORPP!

WHAT THE--?

DIRECTOR STEDMAN?

IS THAT A ***NOSE?***

YAAAHH!

EX-- EXCUSE ME, I--

CECIL, HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOUR LAST TREATMENT?

I DON'T KNOW. BEEN SO BUSY.

COME ON, BUDDY.

WHAT'S HAPPENING, MR. BRIT?

IT'S UNDER CONTROL, EDELMAN.

DIRECTOR STEDMAN SUFFERED A MASSIVE WOUND IN THE LINE OF DUTY YEARS AGO.

HE JUST NEEDS A SPECIAL TREATMENT EVERY NOW AND THEN TO MAINTAIN HIS ARTIFICIAL SKIN.

THANK YOU, BRIT. I CAN TAKE IT FROM HERE.

AGENT EDELMAN, RETURN TO YOUR WORK STATION. I'LL PAGE YOU WHEN NEEDED.

DON'T SWEAT IT, KID. IT'S A SIMPLE CHEMICAL BATH. ONLY TIME HE EVER STOPS WORKING.

AND PROBABLY THE ONLY TIME YOU'LL GET A DECENT COFFEE BREAK.

IS THAT TRULY HOW YOU SEE THEM, STEDMAN? PIECES ON A GAME BOARD?

HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE, LIU?

PLEASE. YOU ARE NOT THE ONLY MAN OF RESOURCE IN THE WORLD.

STILL, IT WAS QUITE DIFFICULT. YOUR... TELEPORTATION COUNTERMEASURES FAIRLY EXHAUSTED MY MAN ISOTOPE.

MAKING THIS... A *ONE-WAY* TRIP.

IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE.

STOP, STEDMAN. PLEASE.

YOU *KNOW* WHY I AM HERE.

MY *ENEMY*...

IS THE ONLY MAN I CAN TRUST.

STRONGHOLD PRISON

CECIL, YOU KNOW YOU'VE EARNED *NINETY-NINE-POINT-NINE PERCENT* OF MY ABSOLUTE TRUST--

BUT YOU'RE *FIRMLY* IN THAT OTHER ONE-TENTH RIGHT NOW.

I'M AWARE, BUT MR. LIU HERE IS NOT ALL HE APPEARS TO BE.

YEAH, I KNOW. HE HAS A *GIANT GHOST-DRAGON* IN HIM THAT CAN COME OUT AND CHEW UP A CITY ANY TIME HE FEELS LIKE IT.

THAT'S MY POINT. WE'RE DEALING WITH A JEKYLL AND HYDE SITUATION HERE--

MORE LIKE A *HYDE* AND HYDE.

IT MAY SEEM THAT WAY, BUT MR. LIU'S HUMANITY ACTUALLY CURBS THE DRAGON'S MORE DESTRUCTIVE TENDENCIES.

LIU WASN'T ALWAYS LIKE THIS. ONCE HE WAS... WELL, *GOOD.*

MORE LIKE... *NAIVE.*

LONG AGO... THE DRAGON RAVAGED MY HOMELAND, *MY FAMILY.*

GREAT SORCERERS FROM... EVERY KINGDOM CAME TOGETHER... TO BIND HIM.

GREAT AND UNFATHOMABLE MAGIC.

BUT THEY NEEDED TO CHAIN HIM... TO A *HUMAN* SOUL... TO KEEP HIM TRAPPED.

I HAD NOTHING LEFT TO LIVE FOR... BUT MY HATRED FOR THE BEAST.

I BECAME HIS LIVING PRISON.

COUNTLESS YEARS PASSED WITH HIM... *GNAWING* AT ME... FROM WITHIN.

FIGHTING TO BE FREE.

HIS SPIRIT... BLED INTO MINE, RUSTED MY HEART... AND MADE US ONE.

AND NOW YOU'RE FINALLY *DYING.*

YES... THIS BODY HAS BEEN REPAIRED *COUNTLESS* TIMES OVER THE YEARS.

I AM MORE MACHINE THAN FLESH.

THERE IS ONLY A SMALL SCRAP OF LIU LEFT... TO *ANCHOR* TO THE BEAST.

FORGIVE ME FOR BEING INDELICATE, CECIL, BUT WHY SHOULD WE CARE? *HE'S THE BAD GUY.*

LET THE OLD MANIAC *GO.* WE CAN HANDLE THE DRAGON.

HAVE INVINCIBLE PUNCH HIM THROUGH THE *SUN* OR SOMETHING.

YOU JEST... BUT THE DRAGON, FREE OF MY HINDRANCE... COULD *SWALLOW* YOUR WORLD.

HIS POWER... AS WELL AS HIS *ANGER*... HAVE BEEN BUILDING FOR *CENTURIES.*

WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN... OF HIS WRATH ARE MERELY GLIMPSES... *ESCAPING STEAM,* AS IT WERE.

AND EVEN IF THIS IS A CON ON THE OLD MAN'S PART, WHY TAKE THE CHANCE?

LET'S PATCH THE TIRE AND MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO.

YEAH. *WHAT* TIRE?

THE GUY'S NINETY-FIVE PERCENT ARTIFICIAL AND HE'S GOT AGGRESSIVE TUMORS EATING UP THE REST.

THEN WE'LL SAVE WHAT WE CAN AND HOPE IT'S ENOUGH. YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO IT.

AND WHILE HE'S UNDER ANESTHESIA THERE'LL BE A MONSTER DRAGON STRAFING THE OPERATING ROOM?

NO.

I WILL REMAIN... *CONSCIOUS.*

I DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTAND THE LEVEL OF PAIN YOU'LL BE UNDERGOING.

TRUST ME, YOUNG MAN. IF THERE'S ONE THING I UNDERSTAND... IT'S *PAIN.*

DIRECTOR STEDMAN, SHOULDN'T WE HAVE MORE BACK-UP FOR THIS SORT OF OPERATION?

NOT JUST YET. YOU SAW HOW HARD THIS WAS TO SELL TO ROBOT, AND HE'S THE MOST RATIONAL OF THE GUARDIANS.

BESIDES, *STRONGHOLD PENITENTIARY* IS A PERFECT LOCATION. WE HAVE ADVANCED MEDICAL FACILITIES SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR ABNORMAL PHYSIOLOGY.

STRONGHOLD PRISON

AND IF SOMETHING SHOULD GO WRONG, THE INNOCENT BYSTANDERS AREN'T SO *INNOCENT.*

TRUST ME. WE CAN DO THIS.

STRONGHOLD PRISON

SON OF A BITCH!

FREEEEE!

KRA-KOOM!



INVINCIBLE UNIVERSE #2



I'VE SEEN THROUGH THE BEAST'S EYES BEFORE, OF COURSE. COUNTLESS TIMES.

BUT NEVER LIKE THIS.

UP TO NOW, I HAD ALWAYS BEEN IN CONTROL.

NOW I AM MERELY A HELPLESS OBSERVER WATCHING MY OWN BODY WITHER TO NOTHINGNESS BELOW.

POWERLESS TO RELAX THE RIPPING CLAWS OR CLOSE THE GNASHING JAWS.

NO LONGER THE AUTHOR OF CARNAGE--

BUT A MERE *WITNESS.*

JUST LIKE THE HAPLESS SOULS BELOW.

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?

I LOST HIM.

HOW LOST?

JUST UNCONSCIOUS, BUT THAT'S ALL THE DRAGON NEEDS APPARENTLY.

AND I'M AFRAID THE CLOSER LIU GETS TO DEATH'S DOOR...

THE MORE POWERFUL THE DRAGON BECOMES.

AH-HAH-HA-HA-HA! COME TO ME, WORMS!

KHOOM!!

COME ON, RUDY. GIVE ME SOMETHING HERE.

LIU'S BRAIN IS ALMOST COMPLETELY SHOT.

I'VE PRESERVED WHAT I COULD, BUT IT'S APPARENTLY NOT ENOUGH TO MAINTAIN THE LEVEL OF AWARENESS NEEDED TO CONTROL THE DRAGON.

I'M BUILDING A SYNTHETIC REPLACEMENT FOR THE DEAD PORTIONS OF HIS BRAIN, BUT IT'S GOING TO TAKE TIME.

TIME WE DON'T HAVE.

YES! *YES!* LET ME FEAST ON YOUR LITTLE LIVES!

VORP!

VORP!

LOOK OUT, EDELMAN!

F-KRAOSSH!

TIME TO CALL IN THE CAVALRY.

I'LL SMOOTH OVER THE WHOLE *SAVING-THE-LIFE-OF-A-MANIACAL-SUPER-VILLAIN* THING WITH THEM LATER.

TRY TO STAY SA--

K-KROOOMMM!

DIRECTOR STEDMAN!

UNNGH!

ARE YOU SURE YOU WOULDN'T BE MORE COMFORTABLE IN SOMETHING MORE... *NORMAL?*

WHAT COULD BE MORE COMFORTABLE THAN THIS?

ROBOT FORGED THESE SPECIAL GLOVES JUST FOR ME SO I COULD STAY IN CONTACT WITH THE HAMMER AT ALL TIMES.

OR SHOULD I SAY, "*JUST FOR US?*"

GOD KNOWS I DON'T WANT ANOTHER REPLAY OF YOUR DISINTEGRATING ACT--

BUT WHY DO YOU HAVE TO STAY IN YOUR WORK CLOTHES? THIS IS *OUR* TIME.

NORMAL PERSON TIME.

YOU'RE RIGHT. SORRY.

KID, I'VE BEEN THINKING. ABOUT *US*-- OUR FUTURE.

SEEING YOU JUST BLINK OUT OF MY LIFE LIKE THAT HURT MORE THAN--

WELL, EVERYTHING BETWEEN US UNTIL NOW HAS BEEN *FUN*, YOU KNOW?

IT'S BEEN INTENSE AT TIMES, REALLY GOOD.

BUT NOTHING PREPARED ME FOR WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO *REALLY* LOSE YOU.

IT SOUNDS KIND OF CRAPPY TO SAY IT LIKE THIS, BUT IT TOOK ME BY *SURPRISE.*

I THINK I UNDERSTAND.

ALL I KNOW IS I NEVER WANT TO FEEL THAT WAY AGAIN. I ALWAYS WANT YOU AROUND.

HEY, HON, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

KID, THIS IS GOING TO SOUND CORNY, BUT--

Pop!

MS. POPPER, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

YOU GUYS HAVE TO COME WITH ME. WE'VE GOT A CODE WHITE!

WHAT'S A CODE WHITE?

ALL HANDS ON DECK. STEDMAN'S DOWN.

BUT WE'RE OFF-DUTY. THIS IS NORMAL PERSON TIME!

LEAD ON, MS. POPPER.

WHOA, KID--

I HEAR THE CALL OF BATTLE, BELOVED. YOU CAN ANSWER IT WITH ME...

OR STAND ASIDE.

OKAY, OKAY. JEEZ.

"CALL OF BATTLE"?

Pop!

KA-THOOM!

C'MON, YOU OLD BASTARD. DON'T CROAK ON ME THE FIRST AND ONLY TIME I WANT YOU TO LIVE.

THUKK!

UH... THANKS.

AH-HAH-HA! YOUR TOYS ARE USELESS AGAINST ME!

USELESS!

VREET! VREET! VREET!

THAT'S COOL.

I BROUGHT NEW ONES.

NAUCK

HIT 'IM WITH EVERYTHING YOU GOT. THIS GUY'S NO JOKE!

I CAN TELL.

THROKK!

SHOOM! SHOOM!

BLAM-BOOM!

KRROOOMM!

WHAT IN HELL GOES ON?

WHO CARES? SHUT UP AND KEEP MOVING, KURSK.

THE DRAGON, IT IS LIU'S, NO?

ALL I KNOW IS IT KNOCKED A HOLE IN OUR CELLBLOCK, AND I'M NOT LOOKING A GIFT DRAGON IN THE MOUTH.

GETTING AWAY FROM HERE IS THE ONLY THING I GIVE A DAMN ABOUT.

OF COURSE, IF I HAPPEN TO GET MY HANDS ON ONE OF THOSE LOUSY SCREWS...

I THINK YOU MEAN "HAND".

FWOMP!

DOOF!

I AM SO PLEASED TO SEE YOU, MIS AMIGOS.

BEWARE, SEISMIC! IT IS CHUPACABRA AND-- AND--

CODE BLUE! WHY CAN'T ANYONE REMEMBER THAT?

THE DRAGON, I ADMIT, IT IS TOO MUCH FOR HEROES LIKE US...

K-KRAK!

BUT TWO-BIT ESCAPEES LIKE YOURSELF...

FWAMM!

YOU DO WONDERS FOR OUR SELF-ESTEEM!

CAN I HELP, CHIEF?

ACTUALLY, YES, WOLF-MAN.

COULD YOU USE THOSE CLAWS OF YOURS TO PRY MY HEAD OPEN?

YOUR HEAD?

WHATEVER, MAN. YOU ASKED--

NOT THIS ONE.

THAT ONE.

QUICKLY!

WIRRRNNCH!

IS IT MY IMAGINATION, OR IS THIS THING TOUGHER THAN IT-- NNGHH-- USED TO BE?

SHWOMP!

OH, COME ON!

THRUMM! THRUMMMM!

DEFINITELY TOUGHER.

NOW... FOR THE REST OF YOU ANTS!

BAD.

BAD, BAD, BAD.

GET DOWN, EVERYONE!

HA-HA-HA-HA!

PREPARE TO D--

VOP!

HUH.

THAT... WILL BE... ENOUGH.

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS, CECIL?

LATER. IS HE STABLE, ROBOT? CAN HE CONTAIN THE DRAGON?

I THINK SO. I HAD TROUBLE RECONSTRUCTING THE LEFT HEMISPHERE OF HIS BRAIN, SO I SWAPPED IN ONE OF MY OWN ARTIFICIAL SPARES.

IT WAS GROSS.

THE TRICKY PART WAS IMPRINTING IT WITH LIU'S ORIGINAL MEMORY ENGRAMS.

I FEEL... WHOLE.

SO... HOW MUCH OF LIU IS STILL *LIU?*

ENOUGH, I HOPE.

WAIT A MINUTE. ARE YOU SAYING WE JUST SAVED THIS TOOL'S *LIFE?*

IT'S COMPLICATED.

DOESN'T MATTER. WE'VE GOT HIM WHERE HE BELONGS ALREADY: *PRISON.*

CORRECTION.

POINK!

YOU *HAD* ME.

NOT EVEN A THANK YOU.

CECIL.

POINK!

LOOK, IF I HAD TO EXPLAIN EVERY FAUSTIAN DEAL I'VE MADE TO KEEP THIS PLANET SPINNING, WE'D BE HERE UNTIL DOOMSDAY.

I DID WHAT I HAD TO DO.

I ENABLED A SMALL EVIL TO PERSIST IN ORDER TO THWART A LARGER ONE.

I DO IT EVERY GODDAMN DAY. YOU KNOW THAT.

AND LOOK, IT WORKED OUT FOR EVERYONE IN THE END...

YEAH.

ALMOST.

I HAVE NO NEED OF STEDMAN ANY LONGER.

HE HAS SERVED HIS PURPOSE IN CURING ME.

BUT STILL I LINGER ON HIS IMAGE. NOW, HAVING WATCHED HIS WORK CLOSELY, I SEE HIM DIFFERENTLY.

HIS SCARS ARE NOT VAINGLORIOUS BOASTS AFTER ALL.

PERHAPS THEY ARE THE MARKS LEFT BY A SOUL TRYING TO CLAW ITS WAY OUT OF A BODY SLOWLY LOSING ITS HUMANITY.

A PERPETUAL WOUND MARKING ONE WHO HAS SPENT HIS SOUL SO THAT OTHERS MAY KEEP THEIRS.

YOUR NEW EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT REPORTING FOR DUTY, SIR.

PLEASED TO MEET YOU, AGENT...

EDELMAN IS FINE, SIR. I KNOW THE DRILL. SAVES TIME.

I'VE SAVED ENOUGH OF THAT LATELY. *TOO MUCH.*

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

NOT A BADGE OF HONOR. NOT AT ALL.

KOSLOWSKI, SIR. *BEN* KOSLOWSKI.

A JEWEL OF PAIN FIXED IN A SETTING OTHERWISE CLEANSED OF EMOTION.

PLEASED TO MEET YOU, AGENT KOSLOWSKI.

BUT A MORTAL WOUND IN PROGRESS.



INVINCIBLE UNIVERSE #3



I CAN'T STOP SEEING IT.

IT'S BEEN MONTHS SINCE IT HAPPENED, BUT I KEEP REPLAYING IT IN MY MIND.

I'D CALL IT A RECURRING DREAM, BUT SOMETIMES I DON'T EVEN HAVE TO BE ASLEEP.

I SEE CAST IRON *DIE.*

I'M YOUR **SPONSOR**, FRANCISCO, NOT YOUR ANALYST. I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT ALL THAT MEANS.

I KNOW. I JUST-- I JUST DON'T KNOW WHO ELSE TO TAKE IT TO.

OUTSIDE OF PRAYER, I SUPPOSE.

ANY TIME I STOP FOR A SECOND. ANY TIME I SLOW DOWN...

THAT CAN'T HURT, BUT LET'S TACKLE IT IN THE CONTEXT OF YOUR RECOVERY.

ARE YOU STAYING ON TRACK? WORKING THE STEPS?

YES. I-- I HAVE COME TO STEP NINE.

MAKING DIRECT AMENDS TO THOSE YOUR ALCOHOLISM HAS HARMED.

BUT CAST IRON IS DEAD. HOW CAN I MAKE IT UP TO HIM?

HE HAS A FAMILY, DOESN'T HE?

THEY DESERVE TO KNOW HOW HE DIED. HOW HE GAVE HIS LIFE TO SAVE YOURS.

BECAUSE I WAS TOO DRUNK TO SAVE MYSELF.

NO JUDGMENTS, REMEMBER? STILL, THEY DESERVE TO KNOW.

YES.

YES. I SUPPOSE THEY DO.

S-- SIKOLE.

SIKOLE.

THIS IS THE SIKOLE.

IT IS VERY NOT MUCH TO LOOK AT, YOU CAN SEE FROM YOURSELF.

ARE YOU SURE THIS IS IT?

I PASS IT TWO TIMES IN THE DAY FOR ALL DAYS IN THIS TRUCK.

IS SIKOLE.

THANK YOU FOR THE RIDE. IS THERE ANY WAY I CAN REPAY YOU?

NO, AMIGO. IT IS ENOUGH FOR TO PRACTICE MY SPANISH WITH YOU.

I AM FOR BARCELONA SOME HOLIDAY, I CAN HOPE.

WELL, YOUR SPANISH BEATS MY SERBIAN, THAT'S FOR SURE.

YOU DON'T HAPPEN TO KNOW WHERE THE STOJAKOVIC FAMILY LIVES, DO YOU?

STOJAKOVIC?

YES. I'M A FRIEND OF THEIR SON, MILOS.

I-- I CAN TAKE YOU NO MORE DISTANCES.

THE STOJAKOVICS HAVE A FARM ON THE SOUTH AND WEST CORNER OF TOWN, NEAR THE LAKE, BUT--

BUT WHAT?

IT IS A PLACE OF TROUBLE FOR MANY OF ALL YEARS. ALWAYS DANGERS UNDER THAT ROOF.

YOU'RE SAYING THE STOJAKOVICS ARE IN SOME KIND OF TROUBLE?

YES. STOJAKOVICS ARE IN **ALL** THE TROUBLES.

THE FARM HAS A DAM AGAINST THE RIVER, YOU UNDERSTAND?

THE WATER COVERS THE OLD ROAD BETWEEN THE COPPER MINE AND THE-- WHAT TO SAY-- REFINING FACTORY.

NOW FOR MANY YEARS THE MINING COMPANY MUST CROSS THE FARM WITH TRUCKS AND WORKERS, BUT THEY DON'T WANT THIS BUSINESS.

ALWAYS THERE IS FIGHTING BETWEEN THE MINE AND THE STOJAKOVICS.

ALL THE TROUBLES.

I SEE.

WELL, THANKS AGAIN FOR THE RIDE.

HEY! I FORGET--

BUENA SUERTE!

MUCHO BUENA SUERTE!

ALL THE TROUBLES.

THWOK!

SWIPP!

(HELLO? ANYONE IN HERE?)

(IT'S SAFE TO COME OUT. THE GUNMEN WON'T BOTHER YOU ANYMORE.)

(BUT YOU SHOULD CALL THE POLICE.)

(THE POLICE DON'T COME TO SIKOLE.)

AND YOU CAN STOP TRYING TO SPEAK SERBIAN, SPANIARD.

UH, MEXICAN, ACTUALLY.

LET US MEET IN THE MIDDLE WITH ENGLISH. YOU SPEAK ENGLISH, YES?

THE GUNMEN ARE MINE. GUARDS.

OH, I-- I WAS TOLD THE MINING COMPANY WAS TRYING TO FORCE YOU OFF YOUR LAND AND--

HAHAHA! FORCE *US*?

THE STOJAKOVICS?

THIS FARM WAS HERE BEFORE THE MINES, BEFORE TITO, BEFORE THE NAZIS, BEFORE THE TURKS.

THE STOJAKOVIC FARM WILL BE HERE LONG AFTER WE ARE ALL DEAD.

I'M VERY SORRY ABOUT YOUR MEN. THEY SHOULD RECOVER IN A FEW MINUTES.

GYPSUM

Slivovitz

MY NAME IS FRANCISCO VASQUEZ. I-- I WAS A FRIEND OF *MILOS*.

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

DRINK.

THANK YOU, SIR, BUT I CANNOT.

SLIVOVITZ. WE MAKE IT RIGHT HERE ON THE FARM.

I MEAN NO OFFENSE, BUT I CANNOT. I AM AN ALCOHOLIC.

WE HAVE NO ALCOHOLICS IN SERBIA, I'M AFRAID. WE HAVE DRINKERS...

AND THE WEAK.

WHICH ARE YOU?

MR. STOJAKOVIC, I DIDN'T COME HERE TO ARGUE. I CAME TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT MILOS.

ABOUT THE WAY HE DIED.

WE WERE IN BATTLE. MILOS GAVE HIS LIFE DEFENDING ME, BUT-- BUT HE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO IF I HAD BEEN ABLE TO DEFEND MYSELF...

IF I HAD BEEN SOBER.

I CAME HERE TO APOLOGIZE FOR THAT.

I KNOW IT WON'T BRING MILOS BACK, AND IT MAY EVEN CAUSE YOU MORE PAIN TO REVISIT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS DEATH...

BUT I NEED YOU TO KNOW I AM TRULY SORRY FOR CAUSING IT.

MILOS WAS MY NEPHEW, BUT I RAISED HIM AS MY OWN. HIS FATHER DIED MANY YEARS AGO.

NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRIED WITH HIM, NO MATTER WHAT LESSONS I TAUGHT HIM...

HE WAS ALWAYS AN EMBARRASSMENT.

WHAT?

EVEN IN DEATH HE DISGRACED US.

SIR, PERHAPS YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND MY WORDS.

HE SACRIFICED HIMSELF. HE FOUGHT BRAVELY.

HE FOUGHT FOR PIGS LIKE YOU AND YOUR KIND.

THIS IS A FARM, YES, BUT THE STOJAKOVIC FAMILY ARE NOT FARMERS.

WE GROW BARLEY FOR OUR BEER, PLUMS FOR OUR SLIVOVITZ. WE RAISE HOGS TO-- WELL, WE RAISE HOGS.

WE HOLD THE LAND BETWEEN THE MINES AND THE REFINERY. WE BENT THE RIVER ITSELF TO MAKE IT SO.

A PIECE OF EVERY OUNCE OF COPPER THAT CROSSES OUR LAND BELONGS TO US.

A CUT FROM EVERY MINER'S PAY AND UNION DUES GOES TO US.

A PORTION OF EVERY TRUCKLOAD OF ORE--

I GET IT. YOU'RE A CARTEL.

WE ARE THE STOJAKOVICS.

AND IF A MINER DOESN'T GIVE HIS SHARE? IF A UNION PRESIDENT DOESN'T GO ALONG?

AS I SAID, THE POLICE DO NOT COME TO SIKOLE.

AND WE MUST FEED OUR HOGS SOMEHOW.

NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY MILOS NEVER SPOKE OF YOU, WHY YOU DIDN'T BOTHER COMING TO HIS FUNERAL.

YES, MILOS WAS A DISGRACE. TO LEAVE HIS FAMILY TO BECOME A POLICE-- A *SUPER* POLICE.

CAST IRON!

PTUI!

BUT ALTHOUGH HE BROUGHT SHAME TO US, HE WAS STILL A STOJAKOVIC...

AND WE DO *NOT* ACCEPT YOUR APOLOGY.

CH-CHAKK!

SWOOK!

P-TANNGG!

MADRE DE DIOS!

SURPRISED, LITTLE MAN?

MILOS' POWER RUNS IN THE FAMILY.

FWAM!

HE'S FAST.

NOT FAST ENOUGH TO GET OFF THE GROUNDS BEFORE WE FIND HIM.

ARMOR UP, BROTHERS. WE HAVE A BUG TO SQUASH.

ALERT

OFF

EHH?

RELAX, GRANDMOTHER. I MEAN YOU NO HARM. I JUST NEED A PLACE TO--

AAAAHHH!

SHH! PLEASE BE STILL.

AAAHHHH!

I'M NOT GOING TO HURT--

YOU HAVE TO BE JOKING.

SKROSSKH!

FWUMP!

HAHA! LEAVE IT TO GRANNY!

HE'S OUT.

A WEAKLING. JUST AS I THOUGHT. TO THINK MILOS DIED FOR THIS.

TO THE HOG PEN. THEY WON'T LEAVE SO MUCH AS A FINGER BONE.

AND THROW HIS SUPER HERO PAJAMAS IN AFTER HIM.

I DON'T WANT A TRACE OF HIM LEFT SHOULD HIS FRIENDS COME LOOKING.

THAT'S WHAT PASSES FOR A GUARDIAN THESE DAYS? NOT MUCH TO HIM.

SKREEE!

SKROOONNK!

THRUMP!

FWOMP!

SKREEE!

THE PIGS SEEM TO LIKE HIM. OR AT LEAST HOW HE TASTES.

SQUUEEEE! SKROOONNK!

DIDN'T YOU SLOP THEM THIS MORNING?

THEY'RE GOING AT HIM LIKE THEY HAVEN'T BEEN FED FOR DAYS BY THE SOUND OF IT.

THUDD! WHOKK!

FLOMP! WHUKK! SQUEE-EEE!

WHAT THE HELL?

WHY ARE THEY SO QUIET?

HE'S NOT IN THERE! HE'S NOT IN THERE!

TOUGHER THAN WE THOUGHT.

ROUST THE REST OF THE MEN. I'LL GET THE HEAVY GUNS FROM THE ARMORY.

SPEEDY LITTLE BASTARD.

JOVAN, WE'VE GOT HIM CORNERED BY THE DAM!

DON'T LET HIM OUT OF YOUR SIGHT. I'LL BE THERE WITH THE RIFLES IN A MINUTE.

EHHH?

DON'T RUSH, JOVAN. KILLING PIGS IS NOT THE SAME AS KILLING A STOJAKOVIC...

MUCH LESS *FIVE* OF THEM.

I ADMIT, IT DOES LOOK PRETTY HOPELESS.

YOU'RE ALL BULLETPROOF. MY CLAWS CAN'T SO MUCH AS SCRATCH YOUR IRON HIDES.

EVEN THE WEAKEST AMONG YOU COULD SPLATTER ME AGAINST THE WALL OF THAT DAM LIKE I WAS A MOUSE.

JOVAN, THE DOOR.

NEVER MIND THAT. GRAB A SNIPER RIFLE BEFORE THAT LITTLE CREEP PULLS ANOTHER DISAPPEARING ACT.

EEHHH?

BUT BEFORE YOU METAL BASTARDS RIP ME LIMB FROM LIMB, ANSWER ME ONE QUESTION.

BUT, JOVAN-- *LOOK!*

WHERE'S ALL THE C-4?

SON OF A BITCH.

EEHHH?

C-

DO YOU *FLOAT?*

KRAD-THOOM!!

FWAAASSSHHH!

FWOOOOSSHH!

DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY, EL CHUPACABRA...

BUT THIS ISN'T THE GREATEST START FOR AN APOLOGY TOUR.

DON'T REMIND ME.

YOU'RE TELLING ME *EVERY ONE* OF THESE GUYS WAS LIKE CAST IRON?

NO OFFENSE, BUT HOW'D YOU MANAGE IT?

THEY HAD TO REVERT TO HUMAN FORM TO SURFACE.

AT THAT POINT IT WAS A LOT LIKE *WHACK-A-MOLE.*

HEY, *UHH*-- WHAT YOU GOT THERE?

YOU'RE NOT BACK ON THE SAUCE, ARE YOU?

IT'S NOT FOR ME. IT'S A *GIFT*... IN MILOS' HONOR.

PING!

I'M TOO **WEAK** FOR IT.

SHLUNK!

THE POLICE MAY NOT COME TO SIKOLE, MR. STOJAKOVIC...

BUT THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE DO.



INVINCIBLE UNIVERSE
#4



OF COURSE, MS. POPPER HAD TO BE THE FIRST TO DIE

HER ABILITY TO BRING MULTIPLE ASSAILANTS TO MY LOCATION HAD TO BE NEUTRALIZED FIRST.

GO ON. SPARE NO DETAILS.

HER PENCHANT FOR NIGHTCLUBS IN LESS THAN REPUTABLE NEIGHBORHOODS MADE SHOOTING HER IN A LOCATION FREE OF SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS QUITE SIMPLE.

I USED A CHEAP, CRUDE PISTOL PURCHASED AT A GUN SHOW--

WHERE MY BROKEN ENGLISH AND LACK OF CITIZENSHIP COULD BE OVERCOME WITH A FEW TWENTY DOLLAR BILLS.

IT WAS IMPORTANT THE MURDER NOT BE TRACED BACK TO ME AT THIS TIME.

THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE WAS MY GREATEST WEAPON...

AGAINST THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE.

VERY GOOD. DON'T HOLD BACK, BEST TIGER. OPEN YOUR MIND TO ME.

TELL ME HOW YOU KILLED THEM ALL.

BEFORE POPPER WAS DISCOVERED, A PERILOUS RESCUE MISSION OF INDONESIAN VULCANOLOGISTS OFFERED ME THE OPENING I NEEDED TO IMPROVISE THE DEATHS OF THREE MORE TEAMMATES.

HANG ON! I'M GOING TO TRY AND KNOCK A HOLE IN THE SIDE TO LET THE LAVA FLOW OUT.

HEY!

KID THOR AND KNOCKOUT WERE AMONG THE EASIEST TO DEAL WITH.

I LET GRAVITY...

YAAAAHH!

...AND SENTIMENTALITY...

NO!

KKRIKK-K!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY IMPROVISE? DIDN'T YOU PLAN IT?

THAT IS NOT MY WAY.

CHUFF!

...FINISH THEM BOTH.

WHAT THE HELL JUST HAPPENED UP THERE?

I REMAIN IN PERFECT STILLNESS, FIXED IN TIME AND SPACE.

AND LET THE UNIVERSE TURN EVENTS TOWARD ME.

THROW PEOPLE TO SAFETY. ONLY YOU DIE.

DIE? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

LIKE A LOCK TUMBLING INTO PLACE.

LAST CHANCE.

THE PATH TO MY OBJECTIVE NEVER FAILS TO PRESENT ITSELF.

IT IS THE WAY OF THE TIGER.

SWOKK!

TIGER, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

TIGER!

LETTING THE MOMENTS FLOW OUT BEFORE ME LIKE RIVERS SEEKING THE SEA, I RETURNED TO THE GUARDIANS' UTAH HEADQUARTERS...

WHERE MY NEXT TARGETS AWAITED.

GOOD DOG. GOOD DOG WANT PLAY?

YARF!

PLAY CATCH WITH BEST TIGER?

FETCH.

SOME ALMOST COMICALLY EASY TO ELIMINATE.

CHOMP!

KA-BOOM!

GOOD LORD, MAN. WHAT HAPPENED IN INDONESIA?

TELL ME-- TELL ME AMANDA IS AL--

P-KOW!

AND OTHERS EVEN EASIER

THAT IS WHEN THE ADVANTAGE OF SURPRISE LEFT MY SIDE.

ONLY TO BE REPLACED BY MY NEW ALLY--

YOU SON OF A BITCH! I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU--

BUT YOU'RE GOING TO PAY!

THE BLIND RAGE OF MY OPPONENTS.

OUTRUN REMEMBERED OUR LAST ENCOUNTER AND SKIRTED ANY DIRECT CONTACT, BELIEVING HERSELF OUT OF MY RANGE.

HER LOVER LAUNCHED A MORE DIRECT ASSAULT--

FAILING TO ASSESS THAT I WOULD NOT FLEE HIS WEAPON, BUT CHARGE TOWARD IT.

WAPP!

AND THAT MY MASTERY OF IT WOULD RIVAL HIS OWN.

NO!

KA-BOOM!

LEAVING ONLY THE CHILD TO DEAL WITH.

YOU CAN'T SHOOT ME. YOU CAN'T EVEN *HURT* ME.

THE BEAST WAS RIGHT. MY BULLETS WERE USELESS AGAINST HIS THICK HIDE.

YOU WERE-- YOU WERE ALWAYS MY FAVORITE.

YOU WERE MY FAVORITE!

MY FAV--

ULLPP!

HIS INSIDES, HOWEVER--

PUNK! PUNK! PUNK!

NOT SO.

SCHLUCK!

WHY? WHY DID YOU--?

YOU CAN MAKE NO MOVE BEST TIGER HAS NOT SEEN.

NO MOVE FAST ENOUGH.

YOU KNOW THIS.

I-- I DON'T CARE. I--

OH, GOD, JUST GET IT OVER WITH!

KRAK!

I DID NOT ANTICIPATE THE ARRIVAL OF MY NEXT TARGET, BUT ONCE AGAIN--

LEAVING MY MIND OPEN TO THE EVER-BLOSSOMING FLOWER OF PROBABILITIES LEFT ME FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO ADAPT.

IN HIS ANGER, INVINCIBLE ABANDONED STEALTH FOR SPEED, THE VERY AIR AROUND ME CRACKLING AT HIS APPROACH.

I RECALLED THE MONTHS OF STUDY I HAD MADE OF HIS AERIAL MANEUVERS, THE CATALOG OF HIS EVASIVE MOVES.

PKOW! PKOW!

I FIRED TWICE, NEARLY SIMULTANEOUSLY.

THE SLUGS, NORMALLY AS SLOW AS HONEYBEES TO ONE LIKE HIM, WERE NOW LETHALLY ACCELERATED BY HIS ONCOMING SPEED.

ONE AT HIM.

ONE AT WHERE I KNEW HE WOULD BE.

SPEKK!

GAHH!

WHOOSH!

THROKK!

THE LANDSCAPE DID THE REST.

BUT THAT'S ONLY SOME OF THEM. WHAT ABOUT THE REST? WHAT ABOUT BRIT? DONALD?

THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE HAD LONG AGO CEASED TO BE AN EFFECTIVE FIGHTING FORCE AND BECOME MORE LIKE AN EXTENDED FAMILY.

THE GRIEF THEY FELT OVER THEIR FALLEN COMRADES CLOUDED THEIR JUDGMENT.

THEY COULD HAVE SHOT ME FROM THE SKY AT ANY MOMENT, BUT THEY COULDN'T DESTROY ME BEFORE LEARNING JUST WHY I HAD BETRAYED THEM.

STEALTH MODE DISENGAGED.

COME ON DOWN HERE. TRY THAT KUNG FU GARBAGE ON ME.

THEY WANTED TO TEAR THE ANSWERS FROM MY BROKEN BODY.

COME ON, YOU SON OF A BITCH.

WHEN THEY SHOULD HAVE KILLED ME...

WHILE THEY HAD THE CHANCE

HE'S NOT SLOWING DOWN. SAMSON, GET OUT OF THERE!

SAMSON!

KOOOM!

YOU HIT THE MAN WITH A JET?

WHAT IS A JET, BUT A VERY LARGE BULLET? AND MY AIM NEVER FAILS.

IS THAT NOT WHY YOU SET ME TO THIS TASK?

YES, OF COURSE. CONTINUE, PLEASE. LET ME KNOW EVERYTHING.

PEGASUS, BLINDED BY GRIEF, TRIED TO INTERCEPT ME.

LIKE ALL GUARDIANS, YEARS OF TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE COMPELLED HER TO CHALLENGE ONCOMING THREATS, TO STAND UP TO DANGER.

SHE DID NOT UNDERSTAND UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE...

THAT SHE SHOULD HAVE BEEN RUNNING FROM ME

PHITT!

DELIGHTFUL! YOU CLIPPED HER WINGS.

HOW IRONIC THAT SHE SHOULD FALL TO HER DEATH.

BUT SURELY STEDMAN AND HIS REMAINING HEROES WERE READY FOR YOUR ASSAULT BY NOW.

THEY WERE

CECIL, IN PREDICTABLE FASHION, SOUGHT TO SWAT A FLY WITH AN ATOM BOMB.

GODDAMN YOU, TIGER. GODDAMN YOU.

I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO ASK.

AND IN DOING SO, ENSURED HIS OWN DESTRUCTION.

THOSE LITTLE TOYS OF YOURS WON'T SO MUCH AS SCRATCH MY REANIMEN.

HE WAS SO ACCUSTOMED TO OBSCURING THE INNER WORKINGS OF HIS OPERATION WITH HIS "WHITE ROOM" ILLUSION--

PKOW!!

HE FAILED TO NOTE IT WOULD MEAN NOTHING TO ONE WHO CHOSE NOT TO SEE AT ALL.

ONE BULLET.

SPAKK!

IT CAREENED THROUGH THE GUTS OF STEDMAN'S INFRASTRUCTURE, RICOCHETING OFF COUNTLESS INSTRUMENTS--

SPINNG!

TRACING THE PATH I HAD CALCULATED--

PIKK!

PAKK!

PLINK!

TO THE POWER SOURCE OF THE REANIMEN'S INHIBITOR SIGNAL.

ATTACK!

KILLING STEDMAN'S CONTROL OF HIS SLAVES, AND REDUCING THEM TO MINDLESS MONSTERS--

I SAID ATT--

OH, DEAR GOD.

WITH JUST THE FAINTEST ECHOES OF MEMORY ROILING THROUGH THEIR LONG-DEAD MINDS---

OF THE MAN WHO MADE THEM THIS WAY.

YAAAAGGH!

ONLY A FEW GUARDIANS REMAINED, BUT THANKFULLY, EVEN A WARRIOR AS EXPERIENCED AS BRIT PRODUCES PATTERNS OF BEHAVIOR THAN CAN BE EXPLOITED.

I KNEW HE WOULD ANTICIPATE MY SEARCH FOR AN ESCAPE ROUTE.

AND THAT, HAVING MADE A MORTAL ENEMY OF AN IMMORTAL HERO, NOWHERE ON EARTH WOULD BE SAFE.

BUT STEDMAN'S SCIENTISTS HAD BUILT DOORWAYS TO COUNTLESS WORLDS.

THE SUB-BASEMENT HAD A REVOLVING DOOR OPEN TO INFINITY.

AND BRIT WAS WAITING THERE FOR ME.

END OF THE ROAD.

NOT LIKE YOU COULD CRACK THE CODE TO OPEN ONE OF THESE THINGS ANYWAY.

TAKK-TAKK-TIKK-TAKK

WORRPP!

DUDE.

FWOOOSH

OKAY. LAST TIME I UNDERESTIMATE YOU.

BUT OF COURSE, HE WAS WRONG.

I NEVER INTENDED TO ESCAPE INTO AN UNKNOWN DIMENSION--

HUKK!

BUT TO SEND MY DEATHLESS OPPONENT IN MY PLACE.

BRIT!

I GOT YOU! I GOT YOU!

I WAITED UNTIL SHAPESMITH HAD NEARLY COMPLETED HIS RESCUE--

BEFORE CLOSING THE DOOR AGAIN,

YOU-- YOU ACTUALLY KILLED BRIT?

I DOUBT THAT'S POSSIBLE. I MERELY LOCKED HIM IN ANOTHER UNIVERSE.

AND THREW AWAY THE KEY.

VOORPP!

AUTO-DESTRUCT ACTIVATED

THAT LEAVES ONLY-- LET'S SEE-- IT'S NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP TRACK OF THESE LUNATICS.

EL CHUPACABRA. I ADMIT, HIS IS THE ONLY CASE I MISAPPREHENDED.

I EXPECTED HIM TO FLEE AT THE SIGHT OF HIS FALLEN COMRADES AND CRAWL INTO THE NEAREST BOTTLE.

NO MORE CRUTCHES, MURDERER.

IT'S MANO-A-MANO NOW.

WE BATTLED FOR AN ETERNITY IN THOSE FEW MINUTES.

HIS FURY COMBINED WITH MY FATIGUE TO MAKE US EQUALS ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

SO I AFFORDED HIM A RESPECT I HAD PAID NO MAN SINCE CHILDHOOD.

AND WATCHED HIM DIE WITH MY OWN EYES.

K-KRAK!

ESCAPING THE PENTAGON WAS CHILD'S PLAY. A STOLEN UNIFORM, A FEW WELL-PLACED EXPLOSIONS, AND I WAS FREE

I KNEW I HAD FOUND THE RIGHT MAN WHEN I REACHED OUT WITH MY MIND FOR AN INTELLECT CAPABLE OF DESTROYING THE GUARDIANS.

BUT EVEN I UNDERESTIMATED YOUR PROWESS.

PENTAGON

UNDOUBTEDLY.

I SENSE THE PATTERN IN ALL THINGS.

IT IS A TERRIBLE KNOWLEDGE, BOTTOMLESS, ENDLESS. NOTHING IS HIDDEN FROM ME.

I FIND NO REFUGE EVEN IN MY OWN MIND EVEN IN SLEEP.

I HEAR THE FAINTEST FOOTFALLS OF THOSE WHO WOULD LOOK IN ON MY THOUGHTS.

I FEEL EVEN THE SUBTLEST DECEPTION BEFORE IT IS UPON ME.

I REALIZE WHEN MY DREAMS ARE BEING PLUNDERED FOR A BLUEPRINT TO DESTROY THOSE WHO IMPRISONED YOU--

THOSE I LOVE.

YOU-- YOU KNEW?

FROM THE MOMENT IT BEGAN.

LO-- LOCATE?

TURN AROUND.

BUT WHAT YOU SHOWED ME-- THE MENTAL IMAGES--

A FANTASY MEANT TO OCCUPY YOUR TWISTED MIND UNTIL I COULD IDENTIFY AND LOCATE YOU.

INSOMNIAC.

BUT-- I-- I MERELY PROBED YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS. I NEVER EVEN TOUCHED YOU.

NO CRIME WAS COMMITTED HERE.

YOU CAN'T-- YOU CAN'T MEAN TO KILL ME FOR SIMPLY READING YOUR MIND!

NO. ONLY KILL YOUR *POWER.*

HERE.

YOU'RE *JOKING.* YOU INTEND TO LOBOTOMIZE ME WITH-- WITH *WHAT?* A *PISTOL?*

THAT'S LUDICROUS. HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY KNOW JUST WHERE TO STRIKE WITHIN MY MIND?

DID NOT.

UNTIL YOU OPENED IT TO BEST TIGER.

PKOW!

PING!

THROKK!

PANG!

PLUNK!

GUHHH.

NOW CLOSED.

FOR GOOD.

DUDE, YOU'RE LATE.

UNITED STATES PENTAGON

Parking in Rear

YOU MISSED ALL THE FUN.

THIS CRAZY PINK SEA MONSTER DECIDED THE FERRIS WHEEL ON CONEY ISLAND WAS ITS NEW MATE.

SORRY. VERY BUSY.

LISTEN, TIGER, WHEN YOU'RE A GUARDIAN OF THE GLOBE, THAT JOB TAKES PRIORITY.

YOU CAN'T BE MESSING AROUND TAKING OUT TRIAD DRUG LORDS OR GARDEN VARIETY TERRORISTS ANYMORE.

SERIOUSLY, MAN. YOU GOTTA START PULLING YOUR WEIGHT AROUND HERE.



INVINCIBLE UNIVERSE
#5

NAUCK GABE

LOWER MANHATTAN, NEW YORK CITY.

THIS IS STUPID.

YOU'RE TELLING ME WE CAN'T HANDLE A BUNCH OF MONKEYS?

APES. AND THEY'RE *ENDANGERED*, SO TAKE IT EASY.

THEY CAN'T HURT ME ANYWAY.

NO FAIR

99%

USA

WE ARE THE 99%

SLAVES NO MORE!

QUESTION IS, WHY ARE THEY DOING THIS? LAST I CHECKED, GORILLAS WEREN'T CHARTER MEMBERS OF OCCUPY *ANYTHING*.

CAN'T SEND KIDS

KID THOR DOESN'T HAVE TO STRIKE THEM--

TO BRING THEM DOWN!

KRDOOM!

NICE WORK, KID THOR. YOU JUST DID MORE DAMAGE THAN THESE APES COULD EVER MANAGE.

ROBOT, COULD YOU LEND US A HAND?

I AM.

OBVIOUSLY, THESE GORILLAS ARE NOT ACTING OF THEIR OWN ACCORD.

I ERECTED A SCREEN OF SCRAMBLING FREQUENCIES TO DISABLE RADIO CONTROL TO NO AVAIL, WHICH MEANS THE ***MASKS THEMSELVES*** MUST BE THE CONTROLLING DEVICES.

KNOCK THE MASKS OFF, BUT TRY NOT TO HURT THEM.

THE MANIPULATOR OF THESE BEASTS IS MOST LIKELY HERE, IN THIS CROWD--

"USING THE CHAOS OF THE PROTESTS TO DISTRACT AUTHORITIES FROM A SEPARATE ENDEAVOR."

WHOA. I THINK YOU'RE ON TO SOMETHING.

THESE GUYS WEREN'T RIOTING AT ALL, THEY WERE ROBBING THE FEDERAL RESERVE!

KLINK!

FURTHER, OWNERSHIP OF MOUNTAIN GORILLAS MUST BE REGISTERED.

I AM CURRENTLY USING FACIAL RECOGNITION SOFTWARE TO MATCH MEMBERS OF THE CROWD WITH INDIVIDUALS REGISTERED TO WORK WITH GREAT APES.

MEMBERS OF THE CROWD? YOU MEAN ALL OF THEM?

WOULDN'T THAT TAKE--

THERE.

"DR. LEONARD MILONAKIS. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE CHESAPEAKE EXOTIC ANIMAL PRESERVE."

INVINCIBLE, IF YOU WOULD.

HEY! LET GO OF ME!

NOT THE SMARTEST PLAN IN THE WORLD, CHIEF.

GIVE US

NO

YOU'RE HURTING ME.

HURTING THIS *JACKET* MAYBE, WHICH IT TOTALLY DESERVES.

KLONK!

LEAVE HIM ALONE!

FIRST COPS, THEN DRONES, NOW THEY'RE SICCING *SUPER HEROES* ON US!

WHAT ABOUT OUR KIDS' FUTURE

GREED

1%

99%

NO MORE

WAIT A MINUTE, THIS GUY WAS ROBBING--

A BANK? THE SAME BANKS WHO'VE BEEN ROBBING *US* FOR DECADES?

THE SAME BANKS CALLING IN MORTGAGES ON OUR HOMES WHILE THEY'RE STILL FLOODED?*

* DINOSAURUS DID THAT IN *INVINCIBLE* #98-100.

SCREW THE BANKS!

THEY DESERVE IT!

AND SO DO *YOU!*

KOOOOAAARR!

OKAY, OKAY. CALM DOWN, FOLKS. WE'RE NOT PICKING SIDES.

WE'RE JUST HERE TO MAKE SURE NO ONE GETS HURT.

NO MORE $

GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON, D.C.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, CECIL?

WHATEVER IT TAKES, BRIT. THIS U.N. MEETING IS THE FIRST SINCE DINOSAURUS FLOODED THE GLOBE.

I SYMPATHIZE WITH THESE PEOPLE, BUT WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LET THEIR ANGER INFLUENCE WHAT TAKES PLACE IN THAT GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

BELIEVE ME, I'D RATHER DEAL WITH ***DINOSAURUS*** AGAIN THAN MOST OF THE LEADERS IN THAT ROOM.

WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE CLOSER TO THE U.N., PEGASUS?

CROWDS HERE ARE STILL CIVIL.

BUT I'D HATE TO OWN A STARBUCKS ON WALL STREET RIGHT NOW.

WHY SO UPTIGHT, CECIL? YOU'VE GOT THE WORLD'S GREATEST SUPER HEROES RUNNING SECURITY AT WHAT AMOUNTS TO AN OVERSIZED PARADE.

I WISH IT WERE THAT SIMPLE, MS. POPPER

MOST COUNTRIES HAVE HAD A MORE DIFFICULT TIME RECOVERING FROM THE FLOOD THAN WE HAVE. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF SOCIOPATHS DYING TO EXPLOIT MOMENTS OF TURMOIL LIKE THIS.

FOR EXAMPLE, SUPREME LEADER CHO OF NORTH KOREA.

WE KNOW THAT HIS COUNTRY RECEIVED ALIEN TECHNOLOGY FROM SET BEFORE HE DISAPPEARED.*

SPIES REPORT HE'S BEEN USING THIS CUTTING EDGE SCIENCE TO DEVELOP A SUPER-POWERED ARMY OF SOME KIND.

* IT'S ALL IN *GUARDING THE GLOBE* VOL. 2: HARD TO KILL!

"IT WOULD BE JUST LIKE THAT MANIAC TO STAGE SOME SORT OF STRIKE DURING THE ASSEMBLY.

"BUT DIVERSION CUTS BOTH WAYS. WHILE HE'S HERE IN NEW YORK, I'VE GOT A TEAM IN NORTH KOREA DIGGING UP WHAT THEY CAN ON HIS TEST TUBE SUPER-TROOPS."

A MISSION I'D FEEL A WHOLE HELL OF A LOT BETTER ABOUT IF I COULD ACTUALLY TELEPORT IN WITH THE TEAM.

I'LL ADMIT, I'M SURPRISED HIS REGIME HAS BEEN RESOURCEFUL ENOUGH TO TAKE THOSE KIND OF COUNTERMEASURES ALREADY.

"BUT I'M CONFIDENT THE AGENTS WE PUT ON THIS WILL BE IN AND OUT WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A RIPPLE ON A POND."

YOU THINK WE ARE A *JOKE*-- NOT PROUD CITIZENS, BUT *MINDLESS DRONES.*

YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD WALK AMONGST US SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU ARE *CHINESE?* THAT WE WOULDN'T NOTICE?

YOU BELIEVED SINCE OUR BELOVED LEADER WAS AWAY, YOU COULD FINALLY PENETRATE OUR DEFENSES?

TWENTY MILES SOUTHWEST OF PYONGYANG, NORTH KOREA.

TELL ME, BEST TIGER--

WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU LOOKING FOR HERE?

NO SPEAK... KOREAN.

PREDICTABLE.

WELL THEN, LET'S SEE HOW WELL YOU UNDERSTAND *AMPERES.*

DDZZZTTT!

I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU SUPER HEROES FLEW AROUND ON CAPES OR ROCKET PACKS, NOT SKULKED ABOUT LIKE FILTHY SPIES.

BUT YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE MUCH OF A HERO ANYMORE, DO YOU?

I WILL ASK AGAIN. WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

WHAT'S THAT?

YOU HAD IT TOO HIGH, DOLT. HE'S NEARLY *DEAD!*

SPEAK TO ME, BEST TIGER. TELL ME--

GRUNCH!

YAAAAAHHH!

HIT HIM! HIT HIM AGAIN!

THE PREMIER!

G-GGAAAAHHH!

GLLLLLTTT!

CUT THE POWER BEFORE YOU KILL THEM BOTH!

PREMIER?

PREMIER, ARE YOU--

HA! LOOK, SEUNG! HE'S GOING TO SHOOT US WITH HIS TOES.

GIVE HIM ANOTHER--

THUPP!

WHOK!

GUFF!

THUNK!

FWAP!

HURKK!

PKOW!

PKOW!

SHRUPP!

PLANG!

NOBODY MOVE!

SHAPESMITH LATE.

SORRY. I GOT THE NUMBERS MIXED UP.

WHY DO YOU HAVE SO MANY DIFFERENT LANGUAGES ON THIS PLANET ANYWAY?

AND HUNTER?

HOLD ON A SECOND.

ANY TIME NOW.

THAT WAS GROSS... BUT EFFECTIVE.

IMAGINE WHAT IT WAS LIKE FOR *ME*.

CECIL WAS RIGHT. THIS PLACE IS BARELY STAFFED AT ALL. SUPREME LEADER CHO WANTS THIS STUFF KEPT SECRET FROM ALL BUT HIS INNER CIRCLE.

BUT GETTING CAPTURED LIKE THAT WAS A HELL OF A RISK, TIGER.

I KNOW THE BRAIN TRUST AT THE G.D.A. CALCULATED THAT ONCE THE SECRET POLICE GOT THEIR HANDS ON A SUPER HERO THEY'D BRING THEM TO THEIR SUPER HERO FACTORY--

BUT THEY COULD HAVE JUST SHOT YOU IN A DITCH AT ANY TIME.

THEM? KILL BEST TIGER?

HUNTER MAKES *JOKE*.

FIRST THING'S FIRST. WE FIND AND DISABLE THE ***TELEPORTATION BAFFLE*** THAT KEEPS MS. POPPER OUT OF HERE.

I HAVE A FEELING THAT WHEN WE DO LEAVE, WE'LL BE DOING IT IN A ***HURRY***.

THIS REALLY TAKES ME BACK, YOU KNOW?

NEAR THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE HEADQUARTERS, UTAH.

MY GRAMPS HAD A SHEEP RANCH IN THE OUTBACK. NOT TOO DIFFERENT FROM THIS PART OF UTAH.

ANY TIME I NEEDED TO GET AWAY, I COULD JUST JUMP ON A HORSE AND RIDE OUT TO THE HORIZON.

IT IS NICE, KABOOMERANG-- I MEAN, **DANIEL.**

BUT YOU UNDERSTAND, EVEN AT A FULL GALLOP, THIS ISN'T EXACTLY A ***THRILL RIDE*** FOR SOMEONE WITH SUPER SPEED.

NOW, ***THIS?***

WHOP!

NEIGH!

THIS IS MORE LIKE IT!

C'MON, YOU OLD NAG. *TRY* TO KEEP UP!

POOM!

FWEEEE!

HURRR-HURRHHH!

THAT WAS *PRETTY*, BUT UNNECESSARY.

LUCKY I HAD MY KIT ON ME. YOU WERE RUNNING THAT POOR MARE TO DEATH.

NONSENSE. WE WERE JUST HAVING FUN.

SPEAKING OF...

MMMMPH!

HERE WE GO.

WHOA. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE?

I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO SLOW DOWN AND DO THIS RIGHT.

THAT'S A BIT LIKE TRYING TO REWRAP A CHRISTMAS PRESENT AFTER YOU'VE ALREADY PLAYED WITH IT, ISN'T IT?

STILL, FOR BOTH OUR SAKES, LET'S TAKE IT EASY, YEAH?

WE'VE GOT TIME.

BESIDES, THE FIREWORKS LOOK BETTER AT NIGHT.

OUTSIDE OF PYONGYANG, NORTH KOREA.

GUYS, I'M NOT SURE WHAT'S WHAT, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING AT THE FACILITY RUNS THROUGH HERE.

AND I DON'T THINK WE'RE READY FOR THAT LEVEL OF ATTENTION.

I COULD DISABLE THE TELEPORTATION BAFFLE, BUT I'D HAVE TO SHUT DOWN EVERYTHING.

UNDERSTOOD.

I'M GOING TO STATION HERE UNTIL WE'RE READY TO BUG OUT.

GOT IT. TIGER AND I WILL CONTINUE OUR RECON--

SHH. NO TALK.

DON'T WORRY, MAN. THIS FREQUENCY IS SO SCRAMBLED NO ONE COULD EVER EAVES--

PHONE SCRAMBLE. VOICE NOT SCRAMBLE.

OH.

WAIT. LET ME GET THIS ONE.

BLONK!

LEAST I CAN DO.

STAY ALERT, YOU GUYS. LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE AT THE SECTION SATELLITE DATA PEGS AS BARRACKS.

IF CHO REALLY DOES HAVE A SUPER ARMY--

THAT'S WHERE THEY SLEEP.

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK CITY.

--BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION THE CONTINUED OUTRAGE PERPETRATED BY THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

RELIEF NOW!

WE NEED

FAIR

HELP

COUNTLESS CITIZENS OF BOTH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AS WELL AS OUR NEIGHBORS TO THE NORTH REMAIN IMPERILED BY THE EFFECTS OF THE WORLDWIDE DELUGE.

INTRANSIGENCE ON THE PART OF SUPREME LEADER CHO'S REGIME PREVENT RELIEF AGENCIES FROM ACCESSING THOSE ENDANGERED COMMUNITIES.

I COME BEFORE THIS BODY TO REQUEST A RESOLUTION DEMANDING, IN THE STRONGEST LANGUAGE POSSIBLE--

THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA IMMEDIATELY SUSPEND ALL MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN THE AFFECTED AREAS FOR AS LONG AS IT TAKES TO AID THE INHABITANTS.

TO DO ANYTHING LESS WOULD BE AN ACT OF BARBARISM--

AN EXPRESSION OF PURE HOSTILITY TO THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE ITSELF.

THE OLD FOOL. HE'S JUST PROVOKING CHO NOW.

IT IS A CALLOUS ACT OF DESPOTISM THAT MUST NOT REMAIN UNPUN--

=HKKKK!=

AMBASSADOR?

AMBASSADOR LEE?

WHAT IS THIS?

IT'S JUST A BUNCH OF *DIRT*. THERE'S NO ARMY HERE.

YOU GETTING THIS, CECIL? THERE'S NO ONE HERE AT ALL.

JUST ROW ON ROW OF EMPTY TENTS. AND THESE HOLES.

NOT BARRACKS.

GRAVES.

LOOKS LIKE YOUR INTEL WAS WRONG, CECIL. THERE'S NO SUPER ARMY AT ALL.

I WISH THAT WERE TRUE, MS. POPPER.

DAMN IT. I SHOULD HAVE SEEN THIS COMING.

THE ARMY IS REAL...

AND IT'S SUPREME LEADER CHO HIMSELF.



INVINCIBLE UNIVERSE

#6

GDA HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON, D.C.

I HEREBY DECLARE THIS CORRUPT, PLUTOCRATIC ORGANIZATION DISSOLVED.

YOUR WORRIES ARE AT AN END, COMRADES. THE YOKE OF THIS SO-CALLED UNITED NATIONS HAS BEEN LIFTED FROM YOUR NECK.

FROM THIS MOMENT ON, SUPREME LEADER CHO IS MASTER OF THE WORLD!

HOW DID I NOT SEE THIS COMING?

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN HE'D NEVER BUILD AN ARMY WITH SET'S TECHNOLOGY.

HE'S A TEXTBOOK DESPOT.

OF COURSE CHO WOULDN'T TRUST ANYONE BUT ***HIMSELF*** WITH SUPER POWERS.

THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK CITY.

ACCEPT YOUR FATE, RUNNING DOGS. THE PERFECT STATE HAS AT LAST PRODUCED THE ***PERFECT*** BEING.

I WISH TO ***HELP*** YOU, NOT HARM YOU. RECOGNIZE THAT AND BOW DOWN.

DUDE, EVEN BOWED DOWN I'M TALLER THAN YOU.

AH, YES. NOW THE PUPPET MASTERS UNLEASH THEIR PETS UPON CHO.

LET THE DEMONSTRATION CONTINUE.

I'LL DEMONSTRATE YOUR ASS RIGHT BACK--

=WHUFF!=

THROO-DOOM!

MONSTER GIRL?

WHROK!

WHERE THE HELL DID THAT LITTLE CREEP--

SKRAGH!

THAT AIN'T GOOD.

KRSH!

WE NEED HELP!

YOU OKAY, EL CHUPACABRA?

SI. MONSTER GIRL TOOK THE BRUNT OF IT.

AMANDA? AMANDA, CAN YOU HEAR ME, HONEY?

UHHH.

GOOD GOD, NEARLY EVERY BONE IN HER BODY IS BROKEN. ALL DISTINCT WOUNDS.

LIKE SHE WAS STRUCK ***HUNDREDS OF TIMES*** ALL OVER HER BODY.

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

TOO FAST. HE WAS TOO FAST TO SEE, EVEN FOR ME.

AMANDA, LISTEN TO ME, YOU HAVE TO REVERT TO YOUR HUMAN FORM, YOU UNDERSTAND? CAN YOU DO THAT FOR ME?

IS THAT SUCH A GOOD IDEA?

IT'S LIKE HITTING THE RESET BUTTON. SHE SHOULD RESUME HER HUMAN FORM INTACT.

SHE'LL BE OKAY.

YEAH, BUT WHAT ABOUT ***US?***

NEAR THE GLOBAL GUARDIANS FIELD HEADQUARTERS, UTAH.

THIS IS NOT HOW I PICTURED OUR FIRST DATE.

FIFTH OR SIXTH, MAYBE.

OH, COME ON. WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HER HERE.

WHY NOT? AREN'T COW SKULLS HOW YOU KNOW YOU'RE IN A DESERT IN THE CARTOONS?

IT'S THE LEAST WE CAN DO. WHAT WITH OUR BLOODY JETS SCREAMING OVER THIS POOR GUY'S RANCH AT ALL HOURS.

ODDS ARE WE SPOOKED HER INTO THIS PICKLE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

MORE LIKELY I WAS JUST TOO HOT TO HANDLE AND YOU SAW AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A DATE MORE YOUR SPEED.

LESS TALKING, MORE PUSHING.

THERE'S YOUR PROBLEM.

WHY PUSH WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE TO?

SEE? SHE'S NONE THE WORSE FOR WEAR.

YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND...

THAT'S THE END FOR THIS THING.

YOU DON'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER, DO YOU?

HELL, LILY. I'M TAKING IT EASY FOR YOUR SAKE AS MUCH AS MINE.

WITH EVERYTHING YOU WENT THROUGH WHEN *EMBRACE* POSSESSED YOU--

I DON'T KNOW. I DIDN'T WANT TO DREDGE UP ANYTHING NASTY.

HMM. I LIKE YOU BETTER THIS WAY, ANYWAY.

I JUST KNOW WHAT I WANT, DANIEL. YOU GOING TO GIVE IT TO ME, OR WHAT?

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT, WHY DON'T YOU LET ME DECIDE ON HOW I'LL DEAL WITH MY TRAUMA?

IT STILL BELONGS TO *ME*, RIGHT?

AND IF I DECIDE A BIT OF FUN WITH A FELLOW I FANCY MIGHT HELP, WELL, THAT'S MY CALL.

SURE, LILY, I'M JUST--

I KNOW. I APPRECIATE IT.

BUT I DON'T WANT TO LIVE IN THE PAST ANYMORE, DANIEL.

NOTHING YOU OR I DO CAN REWIND THAT LITTLE STRETCH OF AWFULNESS.

LET'S GET ON WITH THE FUTURE.

OUR FUTURE.

VORP!

IT TOOK FOREVER TO FIND YOU GUYS. YOU KNOW YOUR COMMUNICATORS ARE OFF?

AH... YEAH.

WELL, EMERGENCY BACK IN NEW YORK. LIKE, END OF THE WORLD EMERGENCY.

YEAH.

AREN'T THEY ALL?

GDA HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON, D.C.

RUDY? LITTLE HELP?

UH, YEAH... STILL WORRIED ABOUT AMANDA, I GUESS.

HAVE A LOOK AT THIS SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE. IT'S BEEN SLOWED TEN TIMES.

HE'S STILL A BLUR, EVEN AT THAT SPEED.

NOW, ONE HUNDRED.

NOTICE HOW HE DROPS OUT OF SIGHT IN RHYTHMIC PULSES, ALMOST LIKE WE'RE VIEWING HIM UNDER A STROBE?

YEAH, HE LOOKS LIKE ONE OF THOSE OLD STOP-MOTION FLICKS. ALL JITTERY.

I'M SPECULATING HERE, BUT THIS LOOKS A LOT LIKE WHAT YOU DO WHEN TELEPORTING, MS. POPPER.

AND GIVEN THE LINK TO SET'S INTER-DIMENSIONAL ORIGINS, I THINK CHO'S SLIPPING IN AND OUT OF THIS PLANE IN QUICK SUCCESSION--

LIKE A STONE SKIPPING ON THE SURFACE OF A LAKE.

HE GOES REAL FAST.

FASTER THAN ANYONE THIS SIDE OF A VILTRUMITE, AND BASICALLY WITHOUT MOVING.

EARLY READINGS INDICATE HIS MOVEMENTS IN AND OUT OF DIMENSIONS CREATE A SMALL BUBBLE OF STATIC ENERGY AROUND HIM THAT REPELS WHATEVER HE COMES IN CONTACT WITH.

THEN LET'S SEE JUST HOW MUCH CONTACT THIS TINHORN CAN TAKE.

U.N. HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK CITY.

BRIT, WE NEED YOUR PEOPLE TO FALL BACK.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TWICE. WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

"AIR STRIKE--

YOU'RE CLEAR, IMMORTAL.

"--GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE STYLE."

MAKE IT COUNT.

SMASH

KRAKOOM!

THIS CHILDISH TANTRUM IS OVER.

THIS IS THE BEST THE WEST HAS TO OFFER?

PERHAPS I SHOULDN'T HAVE BOTHERED TO CONQUER IT AFTER ALL.

SUPREME LEADER CHO'S SECRET RESEARCH FACILITY, JUST OUTSIDE PYONGYANG.

Pop!

YOU FINALLY GOT THE TELEPORTATION BAFFLE DOWN?

YOU'RE *HERE*, AREN'T YOU?

YOU GUYS FOLLOWING EVERYTHING BACK IN THE STATES?

I THINK SO. CHO IS THE RESULT OF THE PROGRAM WE CAME HERE TO SCOPE OUT.

CHO MAKES MEN LIKE HIM. CHO *FEARS* MEN LIKE HIM.

CHO *KILLS* MEN LIKE HIM.

UGH.

I GET IT. IF ALL THESE GUYS WERE AS POWERFUL AS CHO IS NOW, JUST HOW DID HE MANAGE TO KILL THEM?

WE FOLLOW.

WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S HEAVY. TRACKS ARE CLEAR AS--

K-CHAKK!

SHAPESMITH, SHOCK AND AWE, PLEASE.

GWOOOAAARRR!

AAIIEEE!

AW, COME ON. I WAS JUST GETTING STARTED.

GOOD WORK, SHAPESMITH.

IF TELEVISION HAS TAUGHT ME ANYTHING, IT'S THAT HUMANS LOVE TO FLEE.

AAIEEE!

THE TRACKS LEAD TO THIS BARRACKS.

KRAKK!

BUT SO MUCH FOR THE SILVER BULLET.

CHO'S NOT AS DUMB AS WE THOUGHT. MAKES SENSE TO DESTROY THE ONLY WEAPON CAPABLE OF DESTROYING YOU.

YEAH, BUT HE'S ***CHEAP***. HE SHOULD HAVE MELTED IT DOWN INSTEAD OF CANNIBALIZING IT FOR PARTS.

YOU THINK IT'S ALL HERE? MAYBE ***ROBOT*** COULD REASSEMBLE IT.

NOT BEFORE CHO DESTROYS MOST OF AMERICA.

BUT I CAN.

SOMEONE GET THESE DUDES A SANDWICH.

FOOD LATER. RIGHT NOW WE HAVE WORK.

AND YOU ARE?

YOU MAY CALL ME DR. PAK.

NO ONE IN CHO'S REGIME WAS CAPABLE OF DECIPHERING SET'S ALIEN TECHNOLOGY, SO HE KIDNAPPED ME AND MY GRADUATE ASSISTANTS MONTHS AGO TO WORK ON HIS PET PROJECT.

THIS CONTRAPTION EMITS AN INTENSIFIED MAGNETIC FIELD, MANY, MANY TIMES THE FORCE OF GRAVITY.

THINGS TRAPPED WITHIN IT GROW UNBEARABLY HEAVY, EVENTUALLY COLLAPSING UPON THEMSELVES.

THINGS... AND ***MEN***.

THAT EXPLAINS ALL THE HOLES.

I LOST-- I LOST ***FOUR*** OF MY STUDENTS IN THAT TIME. NOTHING COMPARED TO THE POOR SOULS HE SUBJECTED TO THE EXPERIMENTATION, BUT--

ENOUGH. I'M WASTING TIME.

LET'S GET TO ***WORK***.

U.N. HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK CITY.

THIS SUCKS.

I SEEM UNABLE TO HARM YOU.

AS YOU ARE UNABLE TO HARM ME. PERHAPS IT WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE TO TURN MY ATTENTION TO THE NON-SUPER POWERED CITIZENS OF THIS CITY.

PERHAPS YOUR EAGERNESS TO DENY MY SUPREMACY WILL DWINDLE WHEN YOU'RE ANKLE DEEP IN THE BLOOD OF YOUR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, SUPREME LEADER.

WE SURRENDER.

WHAT?

I'M CECIL STEDMAN, DIRECTOR OF THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY. ON BEHALF OF THE WORLD'S UNITED GOVERNMENTS, I OFFER SURRENDER...

UNCONDITIONALLY.

YOU HAVE NO AUTHORITY TO MAKE SUCH A DECISION.

I DID NOT, UNTIL AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF HEADS OF STATE-- ***SURVIVING*** HEADS OF STATE-- MADE IT SO.

IF YOU'LL FOLLOW ME.

FOLLOW?

YOU'RE RUNNING THE SHOW NOW, SUPREME LEADER.

THERE ARE ARTICLES OF SURRENDER THAT NEED TO BE SIGNED, SITUATION REPORTS YOU NEED TO BE BRIEFED ON, BUDGET MEETINGS.

THERE'S A PARTICULARLY NASTY HURRICANE COMING ASHORE IN BERMUDA THAT WILL REQUIRE YOUR ATTENTION.

SUPREME LEADER CHO, PLEASE MEET THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.

THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT ARE STILL ENSCONCED IN A HIDDEN BUNKER UNTIL YOUR TRANSITION TO POWER IS COMPLETE.

SUPREME LEADER, IT'S AN HONOR TO MEET YOU.

I-- YES. YES, IT ***MUST*** BE.

SIGN HERE, PLEASE.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO WASH UP, I CAN DIRECT YOU TO YOUR NEW ACCOMMODATIONS.

THIS-- THIS IS REMARKABLE.

RUNNING THE WORLD HAS ITS PERKS. YOU HONESTLY DON'T THINK WE MADE THE PRESIDENT LIVE IN THAT RATTY OLD ***WHITE HOUSE***, DO YOU?

YOUR PERSONAL ATTENDANTS.

YOU-- YOU SEEK TO **WEAKEN** ME.

NOT AT ALL. UNTIL NOW, RULING THE WORLD SEEMED LIKE AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK FOR ONE MAN, BUT YOU PROVED YOURSELF MORE THAN CAPABLE.

YOU DESERVE TO ENJOY THE FRUITS OF YOUR LABOR.

I FEEL... I FEEL ***SLOW.***

DO YOU NOW?

WHAT ARE YOU ***DOING...*** TO ME?

OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH.

END PROGRAM. I WANT HIM TO ***SEE*** IT.

I WANT HIM TO SEE HOW HE'S GOING TO SPEND EVERY SECOND OF THE REST OF HIS MISERABLE LIFE.

THIS IS MY *WHITE ROOM*, CHO. I CAN MAKE IT LOOK LIKE ANYTHING I WANT. PROGRAMMING IT TO LINE UP WITH YOUR PATHETIC, JUVENILE FANTASIES WAS CHILD'S PLAY.

THIS DEVICE, I'M SURE YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH.

C-- CRUSHING ME.

NO. NOT YET.

BUT WE'VE TUNED THE FIELD TO BE JUST HEAVY ENOUGH TO MAKE YOUR LIFE A LIVING HELL...

UNTIL SUCH TIME AS YOU CAN STAND TRIAL AT THE HAGUE FOR YOUR--

FWOOMPSH!

UGH!

APOLOGIES. THE DEVICE MUST HAVE *MALFUNCTIONED*.

IT WAS REBUILT... UNDER SOME DURESS.

NO APOLOGIES NECESSARY, BROTHER.

SIC SEMPER TYRANNIS ANYWAY.

GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY ARTIFICIAL SATELLITE ONE FIELD OFFICE.

I SAW TOO MANY PEOPLE DIE TODAY.

AND WHILE ANY DEATH IS A LOSS, I CAN ACCEPT THAT A SOLDIER OR ONE OF MY AGENTS MAY DIE IN THE LINE OF DUTY. IT'S WHAT THEY SIGNED UP FOR.

BUT WHAT I SAW TODAY WAS *UNACCEPTABLE.*

I SAW PEACEMAKERS AND DIPLOMATS DIE FOR NOTHING BUT THE HUBRIS OF A SINGLE MADMAN.

I SAW HEROES HUMILIATED, LANDMARKS DEFILED, CIVILIZATION ITSELF SHAKEN--

ALL BY A *BOY* WITH A DEADLY TOY.

ALL BECAUSE I *FAILED* TO DO MY JOB.

I FAILED TO HALT A THREAT BECAUSE I WAITED FOR IT TO COME TO FULL BLOOM.

I WON'T MAKE THAT MISTAKE AGAIN.

WHAT I'M SAYING IS-- AND I THINK ALL OF YOU HERE WILL AGREE WITH ME--

SOMETIMES BEING A *HERO* IS INSUFFICIENT.

SOMETIMES GUARDING THE GLOBE SIMPLY ISN'T ENOUGH.

SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO STRIKE *FIRST.*



INVINCIBLE UNIVERSE #7



MAGNATTACK, AS LOW RENT AS HE IS, MUST THINK HE'S BENEATH OUR NOTICE. WHY ELSE WOULD HE SET UP SHOP RIGHT HERE IN D.C.?

INTELLIGENCE INDICATES HE'S USED WHATEVER HE LEARNED ABOUT RUNNING A CARTEL FROM MACHINE HEAD TO PUSH ASIDE MOST OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD STREET BOSSES.

APPARENTLY HE'S USING THE PROCEEDS TO FUND UPGRADES TO HIS MAGNETIC ARMOR TECHNOLOGY.

LORD KNOWS WE HAVE BIGGER FISH TO FRY, BUT IF YOU STUMBLE ACROSS ANYTHING THAT MIGHT LEAD UPSTREAM TO MAGNATTACK, KEEP ME INFORMED.

YOU LOOK AS BORED AS I AM.

KIND OF TOUGH TO GIVE A CRAP ABOUT A DUDE LIKE MAGNATTACK WHEN YOU'VE BEEN TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE UNIVERSE, RIGHT, BRO?

UH-- I MEAN "SIS," OR WHATEVER.

HELL, YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD US YOU WERE A GIRL FROM THE START. I'M NOT ABOUT CHECKING YOUR UNDERCARRIAGE OR ANYTHING.

LOOKS FUN, DOESN'T IT?

GO AHEAD, GIRL. I'LL COVER FOR YOU.

YARF!

THEY BUGGED OUT ON YOU HUH?

DON'T WORRY, I'LL PLAY.

GO FETCH!

WOOSH!

JEEZ, SORRY. PUT A LITTLE TOO MUCH ON IT.

JAPPE! JAPPE!

FWOOSH!

CHOMP!

FWOOM!

SPLOOSH!

SLUPP-SLUPP-SLUPP!

SLUPP-
SLUPP-
SLUPP!

YALP!

GRRRR.

WHUMP!

HONK! HONK!

VROOSH!

RRMMMBBBLLL

SNIFF! SNIFF!

BURGER STOP

RRMMMBBBLLL

CHIKIN COOP

RRMMMBBBLLL

Chez Quir-quinzaine

ADING Z

WAOUGH!

NICE CATCH, PIERRE. WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.

WON'T NEED THIS NO MORE.

PLINK!

THUMP-
THUMP-
WHAM!

FWAM!

YARF! YARF!
OWWWWW-OOOOW!

GET BACK, YOU MUTTS.

WHAT A SORRY HAUL. NOT *ONE* OF YOU WORTH TRAINING UP.

ZETTI ZETTI

BUT YOU CAN STILL BE *FRESH MEAT* FOR MY *GLADIATORS.*

THE HELL IS THIS?

JAPPE! JAPPE!

HAHAHA! IS THAT A *TOY* OR SOMETHING?

YOU TAKING ACTION ON THIS, MIKE?

NAH, THIS IS JUST THE WARM-UP.

MUTT HAS HEART, I'LL GIVE HER THAT.

GRRR!

"BUT BRAVERY DON'T GET YOU TOO FAR WITH MY GLADIATORS."

GRRRRR!

FWAMM!

SHRIPP!

YAAAAHH!

ZETTZ! ZETTZ! ZETTZ!

MY-- MY ARM--

ZETTZ! ZETTZ! ZETTZ!

THAT LITTLE BULLDOG'S TEARING THE PLACE APART! SHE'S SCARING AWAY ALL OUR ACTION.

TOO MUCH COMMOTION. THE COPS WILL BE ON US IN NO TIME.

TIME TO BUG OUT.

BUT *THE GUYS*--

WHINE!

FORGET THE GUYS. THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS TO THE **BOSS** IS CASH.

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE WHILE WE STILL HAVE IT.

LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT-- YOUR OPERATION WAS TAKEN APART BY A DOG?

IT'S KIND OF HARD TO EXPLAIN, BOSS.

A FREAKING DOG?

YOU SORT OF HAVE TO SEE IT TO BE--

WOOF!

FWUMP!

THEY WEREN'T LYING.

WELL, SHOOT THE DAMN THING.

CHOMP!

SHOPPATA-SHOPPATA-SHOPPATA!

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE. YOU'RE THAT STUPID DOG FROM THE *GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE.*

I SUPPOSE IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE YOU CLOWNS CAME AFTER ME.

BUT THE MAGNATTACK YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS LONG GONE. I'M NOT JUST A WALKING SHRAPNEL BOMB ANYMORE.

MY ARMOR'S BEEN UPGRADED TO INCLUDE EXPLOSIVE ORDINANCE SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED--

AW, WHY AM I EXPLAINING THIS TO A DAMN DOG?

FETCH!

REFI REFI REFI!

CHOMP!

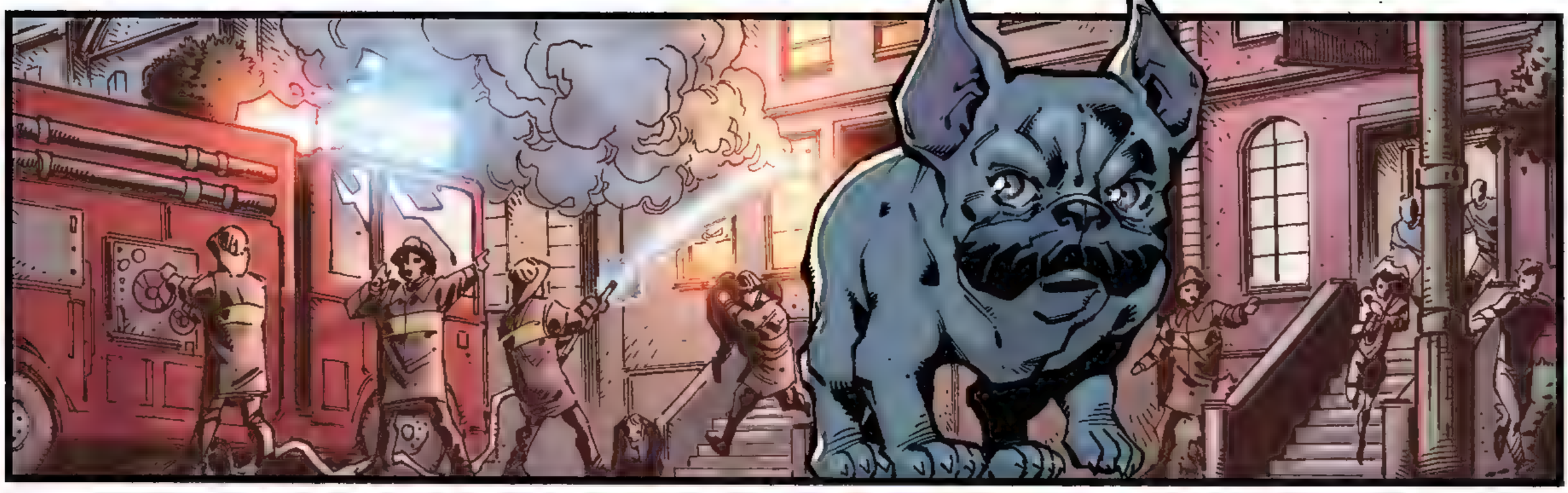
BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!

FWEE!

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!

WAIT.

FWOOM!!!



THERE YOU ARE!

WHEN YOUR COLLAR CAME OFF, WE TRACKED YOUR BEACON TO SOME ABANDONED WAREHOUSE, BUT YOU WEREN'T THERE.

THIS GUY, HOWEVER, WAS WAITING FOR YOU. DIDN'T FEEL RIGHT JUST LEAVING HIM THERE.

ERR-- I TAKE IT YOU TWO ARE ACQUAINTED?

DUDE, JUST THROW THE FRISBEE.

BEFORE SOMETHING ELSE BREAKS OUT.

WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

MY NAME? I--

I DON'T KNOW.

I DON'T REMEMBER.

HOW IS THAT? HOW CAN I FORGET MY OWN NAME?

IT'S FOR THE BEST. YOU DON'T NEED IT ANYMORE.

I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING BEFORE THIS-- THIS SKIN BEGAN TO GROW.

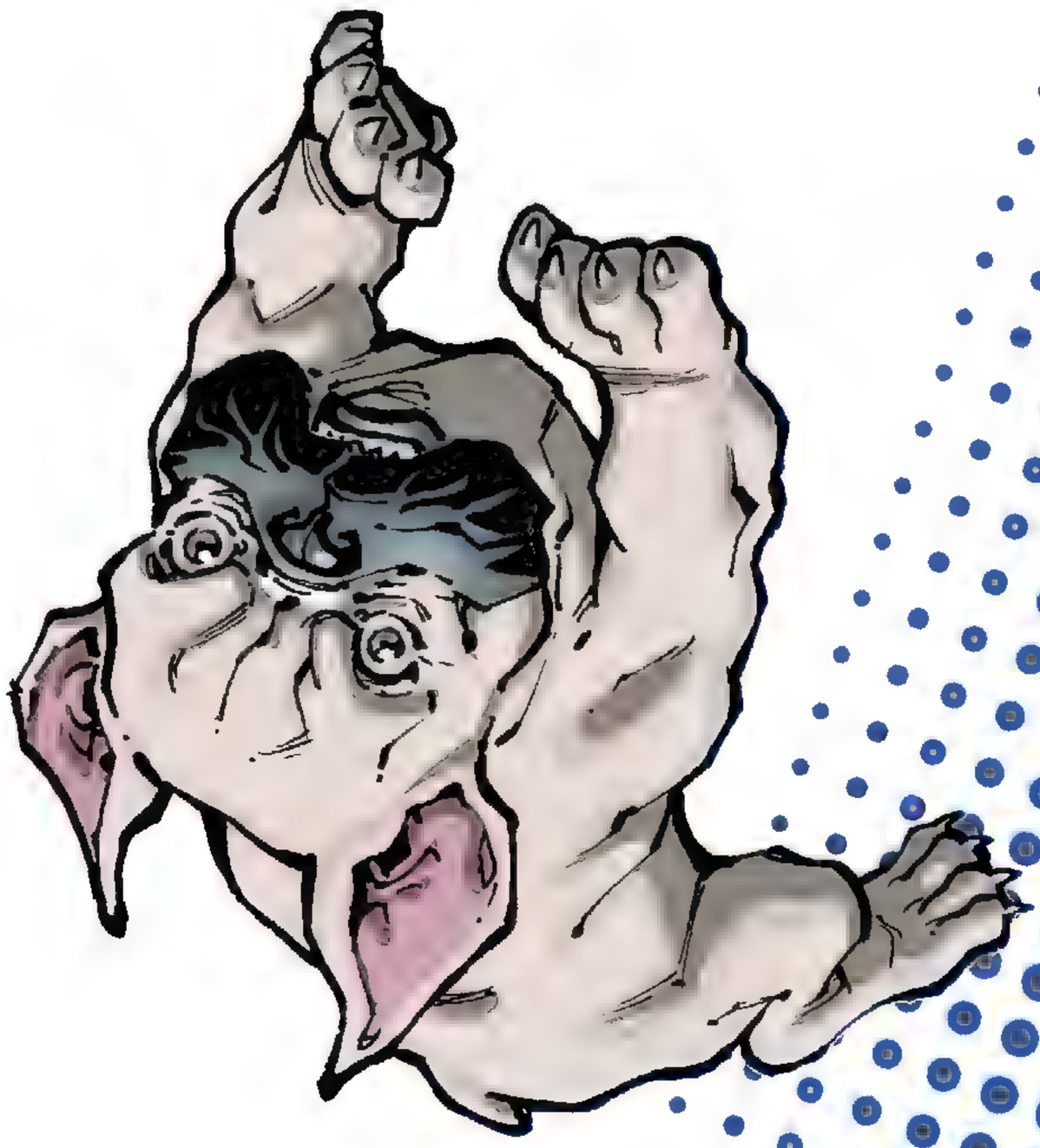
THIS CURSED SKIN!

IT IS NO CURSE, BUT A GIFT.

A GIFT FROM US TO YOU. A SKIN FIT FOR THE WORLD TO COME.

NOW RISE.

RISE AND TAKE YOUR PLACE AMONG THE LIZARD LEAGUE.



INVINCIBLE UNIVERSE
#8

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL. FIVE MONTHS AGO.

(YOU'RE A BRAVE MAN, GUSTAVO.)

(BUT ALSO A LITTLE *STUPID*. SMART THIEVES ROB FROM THE BOTTOM, NOT THE TOP.)

(PEOPLE AT THE BOTTOM HAVE LITTLE TO TAKE, IT'S TRUE, BUT THEY ALSO HAVE NO WAY OF STRIKING BACK.)

(PLEASE, SENHOR REDEYE. I-- I WILL RETURN THE MONEY, THE COCAINE-- ALL OF IT.)

(WITH INTEREST-- *ANY* AMOUNT YOU SAY.)

(THE AMOUNT MEANS NOTHING. TWENTY-THOUSAND REAIS OR TWENTY CENTAVOS.)

(YOU STOLE FROM ME IN MY CITY-- IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD-- IN MY *HOME!*)

(IF I LET THIS STAND, NO AMOUNT COULD BUY BACK MY HONOR. YOU UNDERSTAND, GUSTAVO?)

(PLEASE-- I HAVE A--)

ZZARRKK!

(PEOPLE AT THE TOP STRIKE BACK.)

(AND I'M ON TOP OF THE TOP, GUSTAVO.)

(YOU SHOULD'VE LET *ME* HANDLE THAT, CHEFE.)

(WE NEED TO LIMIT YOUR TIME OFF THE PRISON GROUNDS, ESPECIALLY WITH ALL THE EXTRADITION TALK LATELY. GOTTA KEEP UP APPEARANCES.)

=SNIFF=

(THE PEOPLE HAVE TO KNOW, WARDEN ALVAREZ. THEY HAVE TO SEE MY HAND AT WORK.)

(DRAG HIM TO THE STREET. PUT HIM ON *DISPLAY* FOR--)

(LOOK HERE.)

=SNIFF=

(SON OF A BITCH HAD A *KID*.)

(COME ON OUT, BOY. NO NEED TO HIDE ANYMORE.)

(YOU WANT I SHOULD-- *YOU KNOW?*)

(OF COURSE NOT--)

(WE'RE NOT *MONSTERS*.)

BOITATÁ PRISON, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL. NOW.

(DAVI! MORE WINE FOR MY GUEST.)

WHAT'S WITH THE LITTLE FELLA? A BIT YOUNG TO BE RUNNING WITH A CARTEL, ISN'T HE?

A CHILD ORPHANED BY THIS UNCARING WORLD, MUCH LIKE I WAS AT HIS AGE.

PERHAPS I'M GETTING SOFT, BUT I COULDN'T BEAR TO WATCH IT HAPPEN AGAIN.

OBRIGADO, DAVI.

(HE LOOKS QUITE STRANGE, DOES HE NOT? LIKE A BIG BUG?)

(DON'T BE AFRAID. IT'S PRETEND, LIKE A CARNIVAL COSTUME.)

HEY, TALK ENGLISH, WOULD YOU? MAKES ME NERVOUS.

FORGIVE ME. A HOST MUST NEVER MAKE HIS GUEST UNCOMFORTABLE.

OF COURSE, IT IS ALSO CUSTOMARY FOR A GUEST TO BRING A GIFT, EVEN IN A PLACE SUCH AS THIS.

WHY ARE YOU HERE, MANTIS?

JUST LOOKING TO LAY LOW SOMEWHERE, YOU KNOW?

IN CASE YOU FORGOT, THERE'S AN INTERNATIONAL WARRANT OUT FOR OUR ARSES OVER THAT HOLY SHOW IN PARIS.

AND YET YOU BRAVED THE JOURNEY HERE.

I HEARD ABOUT YOUR SET-UP, DIDN'T I?

HOW YOU'RE SERVING A "LIFE SENTENCE" IN A PRISON BUILT TO YOUR OWN SPECS.

PABLO ESCOBAR NEVER HAD IT SO GOOD.

THE FAVELA IS MY HOME, MANTIS. THAT SAID, THIS IS STILL A PRISON, BUT ONE THAT KEEPS ME FREE OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL.

THE GOVERNMENT GETS CREDIT FOR JAILING BRAZIL'S MOST NOTORIOUS CRIMINAL WHILE I CONTINUE TO LINE THEIR POCKETS WITH DRUG MONEY.

THAT'S WHAT I MEAN. YOU'VE THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS HERE, ESPECIALLY WITH STEDMAN TURNING UP THE HEAT.

WORD IS HE AIN'T GONNA WAIT FOR ANY DECISION FROM THE HAGUE.

HE'S COMING AFTER WHAT'S LEFT OF ***THE ORDER*** HARD-- LIKE ***LETHAL*** HARD.

PUT A ***BOUNTY*** ON US.

A BOUNTY? THAT'S ABSURD. HIS HEROES DON'T FIGHT FOR MONEY. WHO WOULD POSSIBLY TRY TO--

AH, I SEE.

I GOT A ***FAMILY***, MATE. COMMUTED SENTENCE, WITNESS PROTECTION.

ALREADY GOT A RANCH PICKED OUT IN IDAHO, OR IOWA-- ONE OF THEM VOWELLY STATES.

YOUR ARMOR WON'T PROTECT YOU. ESPECIALLY NOT HERE, WHERE I'M ***STRONGEST.***

AH, WE'LL NEVER KNOW NOW, WILL WE?

WHOA! WATCH THE KID!

Pop!

Pop!

ZARRK!

UNGH!

Pop!

MANTIS, YOU BAST--!

SCUTTLED AWAY LIKE THE BUG HE IS.

(ALVAREZ, DON'T JUST STAND THERE, FIND HIM!)

(RAVI, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?)

(HE'S LIKE AN OVERGROWN DOG, ISN'T HE? AND A *HEARTY* ONE TO STILL BE ALIVE.)

UHHH.

(YOU LIKE HIM, *EH*? I SUPPOSE WE COULD KEEP HIM IN ONE OF THE CELLS.)

(HE'LL BE YOUR *PET*--)

(AND MY *INSURANCE*.)

GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY ARTIFICIAL SATELLITE ONE.

WATCHING THAT STUFF'S NOT GOOD FOR YOU.

I NEED IT.

I NEED TO KNOW I'M DOING THE RIGHT THING HERE.

I'M GUESSING IT'S ONE OF THOSE DEALS WHERE YOU WON'T KNOW UNTIL IT'S DONE.

GET THE BAD GUY AND ALL IS FORGIVEN.

SCREW UP AND YOU'RE JIMMY CARTER AND RICHARD NIXON ALL ROLLED INTO ONE.

IT HAS TO BE DONE, DONALD. REDEYE'S BEYOND EVERYONE'S REACH IN THAT MANSION BRAZIL CALLS A PRISON.

EVERYONE'S BUT *MINE*.

HEY, I'M NOT ARGUING, BOSS. JUST WORRIED. THIS COULD END BADLY FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE.

TAKE A LOOK AT THE VIDEO AGAIN, DONALD.

IT ALREADY DID.

Pop!

ZZARRKK!

POPPER!

VITALS ARE OKAY, BUT SHE'S OUT COLD.

REDEYE'S BEAM MUST HAVE ACTUALLY **FOLLOWED** HER THROUGH THE WARP. I'M GUESSING THAT WEAKENED IT JUST ENOUGH TO MAKE IT SURVIVABLE.

GET HER TO SICK BAY AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE--

WHILE I TRY TO FIND OUT WHY SHE CAME BACK **ALONE.**

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL.

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE CONSTANTLY ON THE TRIGGER LIKE THAT, TIGER.

I'M SURE POPPER AND WOLF-MAN HAVE REDEYE ALL TRUNDLED OFF TO D.C. BY NOW.

BESIDES, EVEN IF HE MANAGED TO DITCH THEM, I'LL SENSE IT *TELEPATHICALLY* IF AND WHEN HE POKES HIS HEAD OUT OF HIS LITTLE PLAY FORT.

HRMM. DON'T TRUST.

DON'T TRUST MY POWERS, DEAR, OR DON'T TRUST ME?

YOU'RE SIMPLY *DELICIOUS* WHEN YOU'RE TRYING TO BE DISPARAGING, YOU KNOW THAT?

CLAIRE VOYANT, BEST TIGER-- CHANGE OF PLANS.

POPPER IS OUT OF ACTION HERE AND WOLF-MAN'S **M.I.A.** SOMEWHERE ON THE PRISON GROUNDS.

SLAYING MANTIS MUST HAVE BLOWN THE TIMING SOMEHOW.

CAPTURING OR TERMINATING REDEYE IS NOW ***SECONDARY*** TO RESCUING WOLF-MAN, IS THAT UNDERSTOOD?

THE EXTRACTION ***FAILED?***

I THINK SO. YOU WANT ME AND JET LI HERE TO WALTZ INTO A MASSIVE PENITENTIARY RUN BY A LETHAL SUPER VILLAIN AND HIS NARCO-TERRORIST ARMY, RESCUE YOUR OVERGROWN ATTACK DOG, AND WALK BACK OUT AGAIN--

AND, IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TROUBLE, CAPTURE THAT AFOREMENTIONED DRUG KINGPIN WHO ALSO HAPPENS TO HAVE LASER EYES-- ALL WHILE MAINTAINING OUR COVER.

THAT SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT.

K-CHAKK!

FINALLY.

PROPER CHALLENGE.

BOITATÁ PRISON, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL.

(DRINK!)

(DRINK, DOGGIE. DRINK!)

EHH? WH-WHERE--?

(DRINK!)

(IT'S GOOD. DRINK NOW!)

SLOOP! SLOOP!

(GOOD DOGGIE. GOOD.)

TH-THANK...

THANK YOU...

(DAVI WON'T HIDE. NOT THIS TIME.)

(DAVI WILL HELP.)

DEAR GOD, I CAN'T BELIEVE PEOPLE LIVE LIKE THIS.

HONORED TEAMMATE NEED MORE TRAVEL.

IT'S MORE THAN THE SQUALOR. SOMETHING'S JUST NOT RIGHT HERE.

SLUM PEOPLE SENSE TROUBLE, STAY OUT OF TROUBLE.

NOT THAT. I MEAN I'M CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE PRISON NOW THAT I SHOULD BE ABLE TO PICK UP WOLF-MAN'S THOUGHTS, MAYBE EVEN REDEYE'S.

BUT THERE'S A BIG WALL OF WHITE NOISE COMING FROM THAT PLACE, LIKE A BLIZZARD IN BRIGHT HEADLIGHTS. I CAN'T MAKE OUT A THING.

HALT! RESTRICTED PROPERTY, TURISTAS.

TURN AROUND AND GO HOME.

GO HOME? BUT IF I DO THAT I'LL NEVER GET TO SEE WHERE YOU WORK--

OR HOW IMPORTANT YOU ARE TO THIS PLACE. I BET THE WHOLE OPERATION WOULD JUST GRIND TO A HALT WITHOUT YOU.

SHOW ME, SUGAR. SHOW ME WHAT A BIG MAN YOU ARE.

AS YOU CAN SEE, THIS IS WHERE WE HANDLE ALL DELIVERIES TO THE PRISON.

EVERYTHING THAT GOES IN OR OUT COMES THROUGH HERE.

FASCINATING. AND YOU COVER THIS WHOLE SECTION BY YOURSELF?

NOT MANY COULD, BUT I DO.

LIKE TONIGHT, EVERYBODY ELSE IN MY DEPARTMENT'S BEEN SCRAMBLED TO SEARCH FOR AN INTRUDER ON THE GROUNDS.

HOW EXCITING!

APPARENTLY IT'S ONE OF SENHOR REDEYE'S OLD ASSOCIATES. SOME FOOL IN RIDICULOUS BUG ARMOR OR--

THUNK

RIDICULOUS, MY ARSE.

NICE MOVE, MANTIS. WITH A LITTLE TELEPATHIC PRODDING THIS GUY WAS LEADING US RIGHT TO THE HEART OF THIS PLACE.

YEAH, WELL, YOU'RE MOVING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION, AREN'T YOU? I'M FOR THE EXIT M'SELF.

NOT YET.

WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE?

I DID MY BIT, BUT WHEN YOUR DOG-BOY SAW THAT TYKE, HE FROZE UP AND GOT HIMSELF BLOODY WELL ZAPPED.

DIDN'T WAIT AROUND TO BE NEXT.

TYKE? THERE WAS A KID THERE?

YEAH. I GUESS REDEYE KEEPS HIM AROUND LIKE A MASCOT OR SOMETHING. DON'T ASK ME.

"CUTE LITTLE GUY, THOUGH."

HELP ME...

HELP ME, CHLOE.

(DAVI. MY NAME IS DAVI.)

OF COURSE... NOT FEELING RIGHT...

SORRY... MY PORTUGUESE IS SO... AWFUL..

SO WEAK... NEED MOONLIGHT... YOU UNDERSTAND, DAVI?

I'LL NEVER BE... STRONG ENOUGH TO GET... OUT OF HERE... WITHOUT...

THE MOON...

MAIL CALL!

GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY SATELLITE STATION TWO, LOW EARTH ORBIT.

YOU KNOW, IT'S SO BORING UP HERE I ACTUALLY LOOK FORWARD TO JUNK MAIL.

AH, BUT THIS ISN'T *JUNK*, MY GOOD MAN, BUT THE GLADDEST OF TIDINGS.

OH, *DIOS MIO*--

YOU AND KID THOR FINALLY SET A DATE?

YOU MEAN YOU COULDN'T HEAR THE WEDDING BELLS ALL THE WAY UP HERE?

I HOPE YOU CAN MAKE IT.

OF COURSE I WILL. I'LL MOVE HEAVEN AND EARTH TO--

OH.

WHAT IS THAT, ANYWAY? IT LOOKED OFFICIAL.

MY DIVORCE. IT'S *FINAL*.

AH, JEEZ, MAN. IRONY ALERT.

SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN--

I'VE GOT A FEW MORE OF THESE TO HAND OUT. YOU *SURE* YOU'RE OKAY?

TRUST ME, IT CHANGES NOTHING ABOUT HOW HAPPY I AM FOR YOU. I'VE BEEN PREPARING FOR THIS DAY FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

IN FACT... ALMOST LONG ENOUGH.

BOITATÁ PRISON, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL.

GAAHH!

GOD'S SAKE, WHAT WAS THAT?

I-- I'LL BE FINE.

THAT PSYCHIC FOG JUST TURNED INTO A WALL OF PAIN. WHATEVER THE SOURCE, WE'RE GETTING CLOSE.

COULD IT BE REDEYE LAYIN' IN WAIT?

NO WAY TO KNOW, AND NO WAY TO PINPOINT WOLF-MAN UNTIL WE FIND IT.

FIND AND END.

ANYONE ELSE WORRIED BY THE FACT WE'VE SEEN NARY GUARD NOR PRISONER DOWN HERE?

IT'S ONLY NATURAL. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A TELEPATH TO WANT TO AVOID THIS STATIC.

LIKE A CONSTANT, LOW GROWL JUST ON THE EDGE OF HEARING.

THERE'S SOMETHING VERY, VERY WRONG AT THE HEART OF THIS PLACE.

SOMETHING MORE THAN REDEYE, SOMETHING BEYOND HUMAN UNDERSTANDING, SOMETHING--

SOMETHING BEHIND DOOR.

A BIT ABOVE OUR PAY GRADE, INNIT?

WOLF-MAN COULD BE BEHIND THAT, OR AT THE VERY LEAST, WHATEVER'S HIDING HIM FROM US.

WE'RE GOING *IN*.

RIGHT.

VMMMMMM!

SHRRAKK!

I'LL BE THROUGH THIS BUSINESS IN NO TIME.

MANTIS-- CUT HERE.

I'M THE ONE WITH THE GREAT SLICEY ENERGY BLADES HERE, MATE. I'LL THANK YOU TO LET ME HANDLE THE CUTT--

POKK!

KR-OOM!

kk-krikk-k!

DEAR GOD.

THAT AIN'T A WOLF-MAN, FAR AS I CAN TELL.

BUT WHAT *IS* IT?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT IT'S ALIVE--

AND IT'S PISSED.



INVINCIBLE UNIVERSE #9

BOITATÁ PRISON, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL.

WHAT THE HELL AM I LOOKING AT?

(OH, CRAP. THAT'S SENHOR REDEYE'S LITTLE BUTLER KID.)

(DAVI! DAVI, COME DOWN FROM THERE!)

(QUIT PLAYING AROUND, KID.)

(DAVI'S HELPING. DAVI'S GETTING THE MOON FOR DOGGIE.)

(I KNOW THE BOSS LETS YOU HAVE RUN OF THE PLACE, BUT THAT'S TOO HIGH, BUDDY.)

N- NO... COME DOWN...

COME DOWN FROM THERE, CHLOE.

TOO... DANGEROUS...

(HELL, HE'S TRYING TO OPEN THE SHUTTERS.)

(KID, THEY DON'T WORK THAT WAY. THERE'S A BUTTON DOWN AT CENTRAL CONTROL.)

(I CAN DO IT. I'M STRONG! I DON'T HIDE ANYMORE!)

CHLOE... STOP...

I-- I'M NOT WORTH IT...

C-- CAN'T EVEN... PROTECT MY CHILD...

KREEK!

OHH!

<OH, GOD.>

D-- DOGGIE!

<SEE?! I TOLD YOU. DAVI'S NOT-->

FWUMP!

I GOT YOU.

(CALL WARDEN ALVAREZ IF YOU WANT.

(BUT I'M NOT PAID ENOUGH TO GO ANYWHERE NEAR THAT THING.)

I GOT YOU, CHLOE.

DAVI.

RIGHT. DAVI.

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, DAVI. CAN YOU SHOW ME THE WAY?

I FOUND A WAY.

A WAY TO MOVE BETWEEN WORLDS.

AND THOUGH OUR SPECIES SURVIVES BY HARVESTING NEW PLANETS, MY SUPERIORS FORBADE MY WORK.

"SUPERSTITION AND JEALOUSY MIXED IN THEIR HEARTS AS THEY SOUGHT TO DISCREDIT MY DISCOVERY.

"ON MY FIRST VOYAGE BEYOND OUR PLANE, THEY SABOTAGED MY EQUIPMENT--

"MAROONING ME ON THIS PLANET, MY BODY PHASED INTO THE STONE ITSELF.

"TRAPPED, BUT UNABLE TO DIE, I DWELT IN UNFATHOMABLE MADNESS BENEATH THE EARTH FOR CENTURIES--

"UNTIL ONE OF YOUR KIND UNCOVERED MY PRISON--

"AND BECAME THE VESSEL OF MY WRATH.

"THOUGH HE CANNOT GRASP IT, WITH EACH LIFE HE TAKES, HE PASSES A PORTION OF THEIR ESSENCE TO ME, REPLENISHING ME.

"AND THERE ARE SO MANY LIVES ABOVE.

I FEEL THEM, THEIR SOULS BUZZING OVERHEAD AS THEY SCURRY ON THE TRACKS OF THEIR MEANINGLESS LIVES.

IN TIME, THE ENERGY I ACCUMULATE WILL BE ENOUGH TO FREE MY BODY, AND TURN THIS WORLD FROM MY PRISON--

TO MY KINGDOM.

CLAIRE, COME BACK TO US, LOVE.

MY FEEDING GROUND!

UHNH!

TH-- THANK YOU, TIGER.

ITS MIND-- SO POWERFUL-- SO GROTESQUE.

OKAY, MYSTERY SOLVED. CAN WE GET OUT OF HERE NOW?

NO. THIS-- THIS THING IS A BIGGER THREAT THAN REDEYE HIMSELF.

THIS WEREN'T IN THE JOB DESCRIPTION. WHAT THE HELL ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO ABOUT IT?

KILL IT.

WHAT YOU GOT THERE, MATE, C-4?

ROBOT MAKE FOR BEST TIGER. MORE POWERFUL.

CHARGES HERE-- THERE. BRING PRISON DOWN.

BURY MONSTER AGAIN.

BUT WOLF-MAN IS STILL UP THERE. NOT TO MENTION HUNDREDS OF PRISONERS. WE CAN'T JUST KILL THEM ALL.

GIVE BEST TIGER TWENTY MINUTE--

THEN PRESS.

BLOODY HELL.

TWENTY MINUTES TO RESCUE WOLF-MAN AND EVACUATE AN ENTIRE PRISON?

TWENTY-ONE.

DAVI LOST.

IT-- IT'S OKAY, LITTLE GUY. AS LONG AS WE'RE AWAY FROM THAT PRISON.

THOUGH THIS DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE BEST NEIGHBORHOOD RIGHT NOW.

(THIS IS RIDICULOUS. WHY CAN'T THE POLICE HANDLE THIS?)

(WE NEVER SHOULD HAVE TAKEN THIS ROUTE, GOVERNOR. TELEVISION HAS BEEN REPORTING RIOTING NEAR THE FAVELAS ALL DAY.)

(EXCEPT NEAR REDEYE'S "PRISON." SOMEHOW HE MANAGES.)

(BECAUSE THEY LIVE IN FEAR, MA'AM. I HOPE YOU'RE NOT SUGGESTING WE START TO GOVERN LIKE A CRIMINAL.)

(WHY NOT? WE'VE CUT SO MANY DEALS WITH THEM WE MIGHT AS WELL BE-)

SKRAAKK!

S-- SENHOR REDEYE!

(YOU SOLD ME OUT, SAMPAIO.)

(NO! NEVER!)

(G.D.A. OPERATIVES TRIED TO ARREST ME TODAY. WHO ELSE COULD HAVE AUTHORIZED THAT RAID?)

(IT-- IT WASN'T *ME*, REDEYE. WE-- WE HAVE A DEAL!)

(WE *HAD* A DEAL, SAMPAIO.)

(BUT I DIDN'T DO IT! I'M INNOCENT!)

(I TELL YOU WHAT, GOVERNOR--

(WE'LL LET THE *PEOPLE* DECIDE.)

19:02

11:37

7:51

3:12

(NOW WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO?)

NO PORTUGUESE.

HOW ABOUT ENGLISH, JACKIE CHAN?

I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU TANGLE WITH MY MEN. YOU'RE OUT OF AMMO.

WHAT KIND OF BIG HERO ARE YOU WITHOUT ANY WEAPONS?

I HAVE WEAPON.

REVOLVER. BILLY CLUB. PISTOL ON LEG.

YOUR ENGLISH ISN'T ANY BETTER THAN YOUR PORTUGUESE, BUDDY. THAT'S WHAT I HAVE ON *ME*.

FOR NOW.

1:44

(YOU HEAR THEM, SAMPAIO? THE PEOPLE WANT BLOOD.)

(YOURS AS MUCH AS MINE. THEY JUST FEAR YOU MORE, REDEYE.)

(WISELY. FEAR IS THIS WORLD'S ONLY TRUE CURRENCY, GOVERNOR.

(AND I AM A WEALTHY MAN.)

STAY HERE. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

DOGGIE, NO!

I CAN'T-- I CAN'T STAND BY AND WATCH HIM KILL AGAIN, DAVI.

DOGGIE!

REDEYE!

(SEE, SAMPAIO? YOUR LACKEY COMES TO YOUR RESCUE.)

NO!

ZARRK!

DON'T WORRY, AMERICAN. I STILL HAVE PLENTY LEFT FOR--

TWENTY-ONE.

KLIK-

MREEEEE--

FWOOOM!

RRRMMRRRMMM!

SPZZZTT--

(HIS EYES-- HIS EYES NO LONGER GLOW.)

CHEFE?

MY-- MY POWER.

IT'S OVER, REDEYE.

HE'S POWERLESS! HE CAN'T HURT US ANYMORE!

EVERYONE STAY BACK. I'LL TAKE HIM INTO CUS--

(DEATH TO REDEYE!)

(FOR MY FATHER!)

(FOR MY SON!)

(DEATH!)

HEY!

(DEATH!)

(DEATH!)

DAVI, WHERE ARE YOU?

DAVI!

DAVI.

WHAT'S HE SAYING?

I DON'T KNOW. HE'S IN PRETTY BAD SHAPE.

TIGER BARELY FISHED HIM OUT OF THAT RIOT BEFORE HE WAS TRAMPLED TO DEATH.

DON'T WORRY. I'LL HAVE HIM TO OUR OFFSHORE MEDICAL FACILITY IN NO TIME.

DON'T LOOK SO DOWN, YOU GUYS. DESPITE THE SCREW-UPS, WE MET OUR OBJECTIVE.

REDEYE IS KAPUT, AND WITH ALL THE CHAOS OF THE RIOTS AND PRISON BREAK, NO ONE CAN CREDIBLY TRACE IT BACK TO US.

I HAVE TO SAY, THE COVERT TEAM'S FIRST MISSION QUALIFIES AS A SUCCESS.

DON'T YOU THINK?

KOMODO ISLAND, INDONESIA.

GO AHEAD. I WON'T RESIST. I-- I DESERVE TO BE PUNISHED.

PUNISHED?

YOU'RE SUPER-HEROES, AREN'T YOU?

YOU'VE COME TO ARREST ME FOR WHAT I DID-- WHAT I DID TO THE POACHERS, RIGHT?

FORGET ABOUT MY RESEARCH. FORGET IT ALL.

I JUST COULDN'T WATCH THEM DO IT AGAIN, THE WAY THEY BUTCHERED THE DRAGONS.

ARREST YOU?

DR. BOOTH, WE'VE COME TO RECRUIT YOU.



INVINCIBLE UNIVERSE
#10



BARKER, GET IN HERE!

ALMOST GOT AWAY.

YOU BETTER GET IN THERE, BRANDON. MR. MATHESON SOUNDS PRETTY MAD.

BETSY, HE *ALWAYS* SOUNDS MAD.

HEROWIRE
M. MARTIN MATHESON
PUBLISHER

TELL ME AGAIN, BARKER. WHAT IS IT I PAY YOU FOR?

TO TAKE PICTURES?

M.M. MATHESON

PICTURES OF *SUPER HEROES*. SPECIFICALLY, I PAY YOU TO TAKE PICTURES OF SUPER HEROES IN ACTION.

I KNOW MS. BRANCH ALREADY CUT YOU A CHECK, BUT EXACTLY WHAT IS IT YOU EXPECT ME TO DO WITH THESE?

I NEED BRIT PUNCHING BAD GUYS, INVINCIBLE KNOCKING OVER SKYSCRAPERS, THAT SORT OF THING. YOU EXPECT ME TO SORT THROUGH ALL THIS FOR THE RED MEAT?

THEY'RE GOOD PHOTOS.

THEY'RE *GREAT* PHOTOS, BUT THIS ISN'T AN ART REVIEW, BARKER.

WE'RE A SUPER HERO TABLOID. OUR READERS EXPECT ACTION, PATHOS, CATASTROPHE, OR AT THE VERY LEAST, DIRT.

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THIS?

IS THAT REALLY NECESSARY?

TAKE IT FROM A MARRIED MAN, KID. IF YOUR WIFE THINKS SOMETHING IS NECESSARY, IT'S NECESSARY.

AT LEAST SHE LET YOU KEEP THE BEARD.

BOLT, YOU MADE IT!

ALMOST THOUGHT WE WOULDN'T. WE HAD TO TAKE DOWN A KIDNAPPER OVER IN TRENTON ON THE WAY.

DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO CHANGE OUT OF WORK CLOTHES...

BUT I SEE THAT'S NOT EXACTLY VIOLATING THE DRESS CODE.

WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE EASIER. SOME FOLKS STILL HAVE SECRET IDENTITIES TO PROTECT AND WE DIDN'T WANT TO EXCLUDE ANYONE.

YEAH, WELL MAYBE YOU SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT *TWICE* ABOUT THAT.

RELAX, WE INVITED HIM.

LOOK, HE WOULD'VE BEEN SHOOTING US FROM A HELICOPTER ANYWAY, AND THIS WAY WE GET FREE WEDDING PHOTOS OUT OF THE DEAL.

EXCUSE ME.

STAY CLASSY, BOLT.

THAT'S FUNNY COMING FROM PAPARAZZI.

PAPARAZZO. PAPARAZZI IS PLURAL.

AND I COULDN'T HAVE TAKEN THAT SHOT OF YOU COMING OUT OF THE CLUB AT FOUR A.M.-- IN COSTUME-- IF YOU'D NEVER GONE IN.

YOU SHOULD'VE GOT SOME SHOTS OF ME SLEEPING ON THE COUCH FOR TWO MONTHS, TOO.

LOOK, IT'S MY JOB.

BUT TODAY MY JOB IS WORKING FOR KID THOR AND KNOCKOUT, SO IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH ME BEING HERE, TALK TO THEM.

CHARMING, BARKER, BUT WHERE'S THE JUICY STUFF?

YOU KNOW, PORT-A-POTTIES ROCKING, DRUNKEN ANTICS, FIST FIGHTS. THAT'S WHAT *HEROWIRE* READERS EXPECT!

KEEP SCROLLING, TRIPLE-M.

NOK-NOK!

I KNOW IT'S BAD LUCK FOR THE GROOM TO SEE THE BRIDE, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE GROOMSMEN?

BOLT! I'M SO HAPPY YOU'RE HERE.

YOU LOOK GREAT, HON. YOU REALLY DO.

YOU KNOW I *ALWAYS* LOOK GREAT.

NO, I MEAN YOU LOOK-- I DON'T KNOW-- SURE.

I AM *SURE* ABOUT THIS. MORE THAN ANYTHING.

NICE OF SAMSON TO LEND YOU HIS ESTATE FOR THIS.

HE'S A GOOD GUY. REALLY, EVERYONE WITH THE GUARDIANS HAS BEEN AWESOME. YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT COMING ON.

I'M COOL WHERE I'M AT, KNOCKOUT.

YOU KNOW, I HAD A FUNNY FEELING ABOUT YOU TWO EVER SINCE YOU STARTED AT CAPES.

REALLY? YOU KNEW WE WERE "MEANT TO BE?"

HELL, NO. I THOUGHT YOU *HATED* HIM.

FRANKLY, I'M STILL NOT SURE THIS WHOLE THING ISN'T AN ELABORATE PRANK.

DON'T TELL ME HE WON YOU OVER. I'LL NEED MY *INSULIN*.

IT'S FUNNY. I KIND OF *DID* HATE HIM AT FIRST, BUT--

NO, IT WAS LIKE THE OPPOSITE OF THAT. HE DIDN'T TRY TO IMPRESS ME OR ANYTHING, HE WAS JUST HIMSELF.

AND HE LET *ME* BE MYSELF, EVERY MINUTE.

THROUGH ALL THE CRAZY STUFF WE'VE SEEN AND DONE, HE'S NEVER WANTED ANYTHING MORE THAN WHO I REALLY AM.

YOU HOLD ON TO THAT, GIRL.

WHEN THAT COMES AROUND YOU HOLD ON AND NEVER LET GO.

FEEL KIND OF SILLY TO BE IN UNIFORM HERE.

TRUST ME, THIS GET UP IS EVEN WORSE. THANKFULLY, IT'S NOTHING THAT CAN'T BE CURED BY AN OPEN BAR.

JACK AND COKE, PLEASE.

OLD FASHIONED.

AH-- NOTHING FOR ME, THANKS.

AN OPEN BAR *BEFORE* THE CEREMONY. I GUESS THE KIDS REALLY ARE COMMITTED TO KEEPING THINGS INFORMAL.

OH, HELL, MAN. I COMPLETELY FORGOT--

DO NOT WORRY ABOUT ME, AMIGO.

ONE DAY AT A TIME, AS THEY SAY.

VROOOM! VROOOM!

THE HELL IS THAT?

OH, GOD. THEY'RE HERE. THEY'RE REALLY HERE.

LOOK AT THIS PAJAMA PARTY.

DID WE MISS THE WEDDING?

Y'ALL PICKED THE WRONG FREAKING WEDDING TO CRASH.

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, SECURITY HERE IS ON ANOTHER LEVEL.

GUYS, HOLD IT. THEY'RE NOT CRASHING...

MEET KNUTE AND ROLF... MY LITTLE BROTHERS.

LITTLE?

SO, YOU FINALLY DECIDED TO JOIN THE FOURTH CENTURY AND GOT YOURSELF SOME CHIN WHISKERS.

YOU LOOK NEARLY TWELVE. CAN PUBES BE FAR BEHIND?

OKAY, I LIKE *THESE* GUYS. NOW WE'RE GETTING SOMEWHERE.

I MAY NOT STOP PAYMENT ON YOUR CHECK AFTER ALL, BARKER.

THE ROAD IS DUSTY. SHOW US TO YON MEAD HALL, BRO.

THEY'RE, *UH*-- THEY'RE QUITE THE PAIR.

YEAH, THEY TAKE THE WHOLE VIKING LINEAGE THING A BIT FARTHER THAN KID THOR.

A BIT?

HELLO?

IT-- IT'S FRANCISCO.

I-- WELL, I FEEL LIKE I WANT TO DRINK RIGHT NOW AND DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO.

WHERE ARE YOU?

AT A WEDDING FOR MY CO-WORKERS. THERE'S A LOT OF DRINKING GOING ON AND--

NO, I MEAN WHERE ARE YOU PHYSICALLY?

MARYLAND, HOWARD COUNTY.

OKAY, LOOK. THERE'S A MEETING IN TWO HOURS IN THE BASEMENT OF A CATHOLIC CHURCH ON NORTH CHARLES IN BALTIMORE.

CHECK THE AA APP ON YOUR PHONE. YOU SEE WHERE I'M TALKING BOUT?

I-- I DON'T THINK I CAN WAIT THAT LONG. I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME.

I'LL COME TO YOU. WELL, MAYBE I SHOULDN'T, CONSIDERING YOUR PRESENT COMPANY.

CAN YOU MEET ME AT LARRY'S GRILL ON PROSPECT IN TWENTY? I'LL TEXT THE ADDRESS.

I-- I THINK SO.

FRANCISCO. BE THERE.

FOLKS, IF WE COULD START TO TAKE OUR SEATS-- ANYWHERE YOU'D LIKE.

THE COUPLE WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN THE CEREMONY SHORTLY, AFTER WHICH THE PARTY WILL CONTINUE.

YOU READY?

READY AS I CAN-- WAIT A MINUTE.

WHERE ARE MY BROTHERS?

DUDE, THIS ***FROST GIANT*** IS TRYING TO RAGNAROK YOUR WEDDING!

KRAOSH!

WE GOT HIM, BRO!

YOU GUYS ARE EMBARRASSING ME!

LEAVE HIM ALONE, YOU IDIOTS.

YETI ISN'T A FROST GIANT, HE'S MY TEAMMATE.

WELL, ACTUALLY, I AM A FROST GIANT.

AND, ACCORDING TO FAMILY TRADITION, I'M SUPPOSED TO GO TO WAR WITH YOU GUYS, ENDING THE WORLD, I GUESS.

SEE!

BUT A LOT OF US IN THE JOTUNN COMMUNITY REJECT--

HAVE AT THEE!

I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU.

SPLOOCH!

EEEEK!

THAT DRESS IS A *VERSACE*, YOU MOUTHBREATHER.

THAT'S MY BROTHER'S BROTHER, BROTHER!

BOLT, GO BACK TO THE MINORS, YOU'RE *DRUNK*.

MINORS?

FWOOM

WHAT'S GOING ON? I DIDN'T HEAR THE MUSIC--

OH, *COME* ON.

MAYBE THE OPEN BAR WAS A MISTAKE.

SIR, WAS THERE A SUPER FIT HISPANIC GUY IN HERE A WHILE AGO?

BIX DUGAN'S DINER

MAYBE ACTING A LITTLE FUNNY?

SURE, IF YOU CALL DRUNK FUNNY.

HE SAID YOU MIGHT COME LOOKING FOR HIM. LEFT YOU A NOTE OR SOMETHING.

WHO DO WE HAVE ON THE GROUND IN BALTIMORE?

I NEED SOMEONE LOCATED. I'M SENDING A PIC NOW.

NO, DON'T DO ANYTHING TO HIM. MAKE THAT CLEAR TO EVERYONE, OKAY?

JUST KEEP EYES ON HIM UNTIL I CAN GET THERE.

SORRY

THAT'S ENOUGH.

YO, HERE COMES THE BRIDE.

I SAID--

THAT'S ENOUGH!

KA-POW!!

GUYS, I KNOW THIS PROBABLY ISN'T THE BEST TIME, BUT I WANT TO GIVE YOU MY WEDDING PRESENT NOW.

MS. POPPER, PLEASE--

TRUST ME.

Pop!

Pop!

WAIT, THAT'S IT? THEY JUST LEFT?

WHAT CAN I DO, TRIPLE-M? THEY'RE SUPER HEROES. THEY DO THAT SORT OF THING.

POINT IS, YOU HAVE PLENTY OF MATERIAL FOR THE NEXT HEROWIRE.

YEAH. I CAN RUN WITH THE DRUNKEN BRAWL ANGLE-- JUXTAPOSE IT WITH ALL THE STREET CRIMES OCCURRING AT THE SAME TIME.

I CAN SEE IT NOW, "DERELICTION OF DUTY," OR MAYBE "WHO WATCHES THE WATCHMEN?"

NAH, NAH. TOO HIGHBROW.

Jiffy Luv

THIRTY MINUTES OR LESS, OR THE MARRIAGE IS FREE!

Pop!

WHERE ARE WE?

LAS VEGAS. I FIGURED THE BEST THING ANYONE COULD DO FOR YOU RIGHT NOW IS GET YOU THE HELL OUT OF YOUR WEDDING.

YOU KNOW WHAT, POPPER?

I LOVE IT.

OH, MY. YOU MUST BE MY FOUR O'CLOCK. DIDN'T EVEN HEAR YOU FOLKS COME IN.

NOW, DID YOU ALL WANT THE REGULAR JUSTICE-OF-THE-PEACE STYLE OFFICIANT OR THE DELUXE ELVIS PACKAGE?

Jiffy Luv

DALE NEEDS TO KNOW AHEAD OF TIME. IT TAKES HIM A WHILE TO GET INTO THE JUMPSUIT THESE DAYS.

GO ELVIS, KIDS. WORTH EVERY PENNY.

FRANCISCO, WE NEED TO TALK.

KRESH!

LEAVE ME ALONE.

I CAN'T DO THAT, MAN. I'M YOUR SPONSOR.

I BLEW IT. SIX MONTHS AND I BLEW IT OVER *NOTHING*.

FOR WEEKS I'VE BEEN TURNING IT OVER IN MY HEAD, HOW SEEING MY FRIENDS GET MARRIED WOULD REMIND ME OF MY WIFE--

OF HOW I RUINED OUR MARRIAGE.

SOME THINGS YOU CAN'T PREPARE FOR, FRANCISCO.

IT LOOKED SO *GOOD*.

I DON'T MEAN IN A DROWN-YOUR-SORROWS KIND OF WAY. IT JUST LOOKED DELICIOUS.

AND I WAS OFF TO THE RACES. NOT BECAUSE I WAS *DOWN*, NOT BECAUSE I WAS *TROUBLED*--

BUT BECAUSE I *CRAVED* IT. LIKE A GODDAMN *ANIMAL*.

BUT I DID. I WAS READY. I WAS HAPPY FOR THOSE TWO WITHOUT ONCE THINKING OF MY OWN SITUATION.

BUT THEN I SAW THAT *CUBA LIBRE* JUST SITTING ON THE TABLE AND IT--

THE WAY THE ICE SHINED IN THE LIGHTS, THE COLA ALL RICH AND COLD.

YOU'RE NOT AN ANIMAL, FRANCISCO.

COME ON, LET'S GET YOU--

I SAID, LEAVE ME ALONE!

SHRINNG!

SHRAKK!

FEEL BETTER?

THUD!

I KNOW I DO.

ARE THEY DEAD? THEY LOOK DEAD.

SOME WILL DIE, NO DOUBT.

BUT THOSE WHO SURVIVE WILL BE REBORN STRONGER, FASTER, MORE RUTHLESS.

HELL OF A RISK. MOST ORGANIZATIONS WOULD BE ECSTATIC TO HAVE AN ARMY THAT SIZE.

"BUT I DON'T WANT AN ARMY, IGUANA.

"I WANT A *FAMILY*.

"MORE THAN THAT, I WANT A NEW *SPECIES*.

"AND A WORLD FIT FOR THEIR RULE."



INVINCIBLE UNIVERSE #11

THE FORMER LAIR OF THE NOW-EXTINCT DINOSAURUS, SWITZERLAND.

MAN, IF I WANTED THIS KIND OF BOREDOM, I WOULD HAVE STAYED IN THE D.E.A.

HEY, THIS IS AN IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT. ALL KINDS OF DANGEROUS STUFF HAS TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR-- LASERS, TIME MACHINES, DIMENSIONAL PORTALS-- SUPERVILLAIN STUFF.

BEATS STAKING OUT A DENNY'S IN TUCSON.

SURE, BUT I THOUGHT I WOULD HAVE MET AT LEAST ONE SUPERHERO BY NOW.

I MEAN, I DIDN'T EXPECT TO BE DATING CLAIRE VOYANT OR ANYTHING, BUT I THOUGHT I WOULD'VE AT LEAST RUN INTO TECH JACKET.

CLOSEST I'VE BEEN TO SEEING A SUPER IS GUARDING DINOSAURUS'S OLD *UNDERWEAR.*

IT COULD BE WORSE. ASK ALL THE GUYS AT STRONGHOLD HOW THEY FEEL ABOUT MEETING SUPERS... THE ONES WHO SURVIVED, ANYWAY.*

* CHECK I.U. #1-2 FOR MORE ON THAT.

HEY, YOU HEAR THAT?

RELAX. PERIMETER ALARM WOULD HAVE PICKED UP ANY MOVEMENT.

YEAH, BUT I DEFINITELY HEARD SOMETHING. LIKE A LOT OF SOMETHINGS.

KLIK.

SEE? NADA.

THERE IT IS AGAIN, LIKE GRASS IN THE WIND. BUT I DON'T SEE ANYTHING.

GUARD TOWER, GIVE ME A FLOOD LIGHT IN SECTOR E-5.

ROGER.

AH, HELL.

SOMEWHERE NEAR WASHINGTON, D.C.

MY-- MY COSTUME?

WHO *DID* THIS? IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE SOME KIND OF JOKE?

I'M NOT FIT TO WEAR THIS ANYMORE-- NOT FIT TO CALL MYSELF A *HERO.*

BUT IF IT'S EL CHUPACABRA YOU WANT--

THAT'S WHO YOU'LL GET!

FWAM!

WELL, THAT'S A START.

IS THIS-- THIS **CELL** YOUR IDEA OF HELP, TITAN?

OR DID YOU FINALLY DECIDE TO EXPLOIT YOUR ROLE AS MY SPONSOR FOR SOME SORT OF GAIN?

RELAX. THE CELL WAS NECESSARY.

YOU HAD TO DRY OUT BEFORE ANYONE COULD HELP YOU, AND WITH POWERS LIKE YOURS, WHO KNOWS HOW MANY PEOPLE YOU COULD HAVE HURT BEFORE THAT HAPPENED.

DID-- **DID** I HURT ANYONE?

NOPE...

BUT SOMEONE'S ABOUT TO HURT **YOU.**

THERE'S A REASON I PUT THE COSTUME ON YOU, FRANCISCO.

WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT-- WHETHER YOU'RE **SOBER** OR NOT-- YOU **ARE** A SUPERHERO.

AND **YOU** ARE A SUPER-**VILLAIN.**

SO LET'S STOP ALL THIS TALKING, THEN--

AND DO WHAT COMES NATURAL.

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

IT'S GOING TO TAKE MORE THAN THAT TO STOP BLACK SAMSON!

IT'S GOING TO TAKE EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU!

YOU HEAR ME, TERRY? ALL OF YOU.

FUMBLE!

OOF!

HAHA. I GOTTA THANK YOU FOR PUTTING ALL THIS TOGETHER, SAMSON. THE KIDS REALLY APPRECIATE IT.

AH, I'M PRETTY SURE I GET MORE OUT OF IT THAN THEY DO.

IT'S IMPORTANT KIDS SEE SOMEONE FROM THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD FINDING WAYS TO BE SUCCESSFUL, KNOW WHAT I'M SAYIN'?

TO SEE THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO BE A HERO.

ESPECIALLY SINCE THE WAY THEY SEE YOU DOING IT ON T.V. IS MOSTLY JUST BEATING UP POOR FOLK.

MALIA, THIS ISN'T THE TIME.

YOU MUST BE TERRELL'S MOM. HE'S A GREAT KI--

OH, I SEE WHAT YOU'RE **REALLY** ABOUT, MR. SAMSON.

PUTTING YOUNG BLACK MEN IN THE HOSPITAL FOR TRYING TO EARN A LIVING IN A SOCIETY EXPLICITLY ENGINEERED TO **KEEP** THEM FROM MAKING IT.

MA'AM, I DON'T HAVE TIME TO CONDUCT **BACKGROUND CHECKS** BEFORE EVERY FISTFIGHT.

BUT YOU GOT TIME TO THROW THIS BIG COOKOUT. PUT A **SMILING FACE** BEHIND YOUR **BLOODY FIST.**

WOW. HOW LONG YOU BEEN SAVING THAT LINE?

YOU JUST CAN'T HANDLE SOMEONE SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER.

LOOK, I'M A STRONG GUY. I PUNCH THINGS. I CAN'T PUNCH ***RACISM*** OUT OF A COUNTRY.

BUT I CAN TELL YOU ABOUT THE BOYS I HAD TO MESS UP LAST WEEK--

THE BOYS YOU SAW ON THE NEWS, I'M GUESSING.

THEY WERE HUSTLING AFTER A BUCK, LIKE YOU SAID, BUT THAT CASH WAS COMING FROM A COSTUMED LUNATIC HOLDING THE CITY OF CHICAGO HOSTAGE--

THREATENING TO BLOW IT UP UNLESS HE GOT FOUR HUNDRED MILLION. BOMBS PLANTED UP AND DOWN THE NATURAL GAS LINES.

WE'RE GUESSING HE WOULD HAVE BLOWN THEM JUST TO COVER HIS TRACKS, WHETHER HE GOT THE RANSOM OR NOT.

IF I HADN'T PUT THOSE YOUNG MEN ON THEIR ASSES, ABOUT HALF A MILLION OTHER FOLKS, FROM LINCOLN PARK DOWN TO ENGLEWOOD, WOULD BE DEAD.

I DIDN'T DO THAT-- OR ***THIS***-- TO BE CALLED A HERO.

I DO BOTH TO TRY AND SECURE JUST A ***CHANCE*** AT A DECENT FUTURE FOR AS MANY OF THESE KIDS AS I CAN.

NOW, CAN I GET YOU A BURGER?

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA.

NOT TRYING TO GET CORNY ON YOU, BUT DID LAST NIGHT FEEL *DIFFERENT?*

YOU MEAN WITH THE HAMMER GETTING IN THE WAY?

NO, DUMMY. I MEAN SINCE WE'RE *MARRIED.*

WAIT, YOU'RE SAYING THAT WASN'T JUST SOME BAD DREAM?

HA. YOU'D BE LUCKY TO GET THIS EVEN IN YOUR DREAMS.

OKAY, YES-- IT *WAS* DIFFERENT.

BETTER?

VERILY.

SMILE!

CHANNEL 9 LIVE FROM BLACK SAMSON'S ANNUAL COMMUNITY COOKOUT

EXCLUSIVE: Kid Thor & Knockout Elope!

--POTOSI, BOLIVIA, WHERE YESTERDAY MEMBERS OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE RESCUED OVER THIRTY MINERS FROM A CAVE-IN WHICH HAD TRAPPED THE WORKERS FOR ALMOST FOUR DAYS--

GNN | BOLIVIAN MINE DISASTER DAY 4.

STALKING YOUR PREY EVEN AT A DISTANCE, I SEE.

THE GUARDIANS ARE NOT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY, KOMODO. THEY'VE DEFEATED ME ENOUGH TIMES TO PROVE THAT.

ONE CAN NEVER KNOW AN ENEMY TOO WELL.

THERE WILL BE NO ENEMIES IN THE WORLD WE'RE BUILDING.

OBSERVE THOSE WHO *GUARDED* THIS FACILITY, WHO TRIED TO KEEP DINOSAURUS'S GIFTS FROM OUR HANDS.

WHEN THE CHANGE FINALLY COMES, ENEMIES WILL BECOME *ALLIES*.

FOES WILL BE *FAMILY*.

ALL WILL BE OF *ONE* BLOOD...

THE BLOOD OF THE *LIZARD KING!*

GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY
ARTIFICIAL SATELLITE ONE

STATION DS-1, YOU'RE OVERDUE FOR SITUATION REPORT. STATION DS-1.

C'MON, RESHMI, QUIT SCREWING ROUND.

I KNOW IT'S BORING UP THERE, BUT OUR REMOTE SENSORS ARE PICKING UP POSSIBLE ACTIVATION OF SOME UNCATALOGUED EQUIPMENT AT YOUR LOCATION.

DID THE SCIENCE TEAM ACCIDENTALLY BUMP INTO ONE OF DINOSAURUS'S *DOOMSDAY DEVICES?*

THAT'S A JOKE, RESHMI. YOU THERE OR WHAT?

I-- I CAN HEAR YOU.

YOU SOUND WEIRD. WHAT'S GOING ON UP THERE?

SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT.

SOMETHING *BEAUTIFUL.*

THIS BETTER BE GOOD, CECIL. WE WERE ON OUR DAMN HONEYMOON.

FORGIVE ME FOR NOT KEEPING YOUR SOCIAL CALENDAR ON MY FRIDGE, BUT I'M A LITTLE BUSY WITH THIS WHOLE SAVING-THE-WORLD THING.

RIGHT. FROM *THESE* CLOWNS?

AW, MAN, NOT THE LIZARDS AGAIN.

COULDN'T YOU CALL UP THE **ACTIONEERS** TO TAKE ON THESE SCRUBS?

THESE **SCRUBS**, MOST LIKELY WITH THE AID OF COMPROMISED G.D.A. AGENTS, HAVE **TAKEN CONTROL** OF THE LATE DINOSAURUS'S LAIR--

AND THE ARRAY OF AS-YET-UNCATEGORIZED ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, WEAPONS AND VIRUSES STORED THEREIN.

THE LIZARD LEAGUE HAVE GONE FROM SCRUBS TO **STARTERS.** NOW, IF YOU NEED MORE INCENTIVE...

WE GET IT, CHIEF.

JUST POINT US AT THE BAD PEOPLE.

BULLETPROOFS UP FRONT. THEY'VE GOT MINIONS.

ZORK! ZORK!

LINE 'EM UP AND KNOCK 'EM DOWN, BUT TAKE IT EASY. SOME OF THESE FLUNKIES ARE PROBABLY UNDER MIND CONTROL.

KNOCKOUT, KID THOR, STAY IN FORMATION.

C'MON, BRIT. WE GOT THIS.

YARF!

UH.

WOAH!

GET OFF HER!

BACK, YOU MONSTERS!

SARAH!

SARAH?

NO FAIR LETTING YOUR HENCHMEN TAKE ALL THE PUNISHMENT.

THRAK!

COME TAKE... YOUR... MED--

WOOF.

SAMSON, YOU OKAY?

I DON'T FEEL SO...

SALAMANDER EXUDES A HALLUCINOGENIC SLIME FROM HIS SKIN. WE NEED TO EVAC SAMSON IMMEDIATELY.

GET AWAY! GET AWAY FROM ME!

IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN SOME POISON GOO TO SLOW HIM DOWN. HE'S A TOUGH GUY.

THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF.

OUTRUN, DON'T LET THAT BASTARD KING LIZARD OUT OF HERE.

ON IT.

FWOOSH!

FWAPP!

LILY!

RATHER, YOU'RE *IN* IT, DEAR.

KLUDD!

GREAT. WHERE'S BEST TIGER?

WHERE DO YOU THINK? HE EYEBALLED THE BEST FIGHTER AND SQUARED OFF FOR SOME KIND OF DUEL.

WHAP!

WUP!

WHOP!

THAPP!

THROOP!

HKK-K!

THEY'RE PICKING US OFF ONE BY ONE. EVERYONE FORM ON ME!

I'D LOVE TO, BRIT, BUT I HAVE MY HANDS FULL HERE.

HOLD HIM!

SORRY, SAMSON, BUT THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.

GRAAAHH!

WHOA.

FWOOP!

HEY! HEY, WE'RE STUCK. SOME SORT OF MAGNETIC--

FWOMP!

SON OF A BITCH.

CECIL, WE NEED BACK UP. BIG GUNS.

ALREADY THERE.

GET DOWN.

COVER YOUR EARS.

BUR-WHOOM!!

K-KRASH!

SK-KROOM!

STOP RIGHT THERE, GUARDIANS.

THAT IS, IF YOU *VALUE* THE LIVES OF YOUR TEAMMATES.

WHAT IS THAT STUFF? WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO THEM?

THEY ARE *QUITE WELL*, BRIT. ON THEIR WAY TO BEING BETTER THAN EVER, IN FACT.

MEET THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE...

MY GLOBE.



INVINCIBLE UNIVERSE #12



THE MOUNTAIN LAIR OF THE LATE DINOSAURUS.

OH MY GOD.

SARAH.

YOU'RE LYING. THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. THOSE ARE *IMPOSTORS.*

THERE'S NO WAY A HUMAN BODY COULD UNDERGO THAT LEVEL OF WIDESPREAD GENETIC TRANSFORMATION IN JUST A FEW MINUTES.

MINUTES, ROBOT? WHO DO YOU THINK I AM, SOME MUSTACHE TWIRLING MOVIE VILLAIN?

I DID IT THIRTY-FIVE *WEEKS* AGO.

KING LIZARD LEARNS FROM HIS DEFEATS.

IF YOU CAN'T BEAT THEM, JOIN THEM... OR RATHER, MAKE THEM JOIN YOU.

EVERY TIME YOU GUARDIANS FOUGHT THE LIZARD LEAGUE, WE LEFT OUR MARK. BITES, SCRATCHES, SCRAPES.

ALL CARRIED THE INFECTIOUS SEED OF KING LIZARD.

MY VIRUS SPREAD WITHIN THEM, CROUCHING IN EVERY SYSTEM OF THEIR BODIES, WAITING FOR THIS FINAL STEP TO UNLOCK THEIR SPLENDOR.

AS I SAID BEFORE, I AM NOT A VILLAIN, BUT A PIONEER.

MY WORLD-- THE WORLD ALREADY ON ITS WAY-- WILL NEED NEW HEROES.

THE *OLD* HEROES, HOWEVER, ARE QUITE DISPOSABLE.

SLAY THEM, MY CHILDREN!

TITAN'S SAFE HOUSE, SOMEWHERE ON THE EASTERN SEABOARD.

SHUNK!

YOU TRIED THAT ALREADY.

EL CHUPACABRA DOESN'T NEED TO CUT YOU--

TO *BEAT* YOU!

FWAM!

HEH. THAT'S THE STUFF.

THAT'S WHY I PUT THE SUIT ON YOU.

A DECISION YOU WILL SOON *REGRET*, TITAN.

STOP AND THINK FOR A MINUTE.

YOU REALLY BELIEVE IT'S A COINCIDENCE YOUR LAST TWO RELAPSES HAPPENED WHILE YOU WERE ON DUTY?

FRANCISCO DIDN'T FALL OFF THE WAGON-- EL CHUPACABRA DID.

AND IT'S *EL CHUPACABRA* THAT NEEDS TO GO INTO RECOVERY.

I--

I BECAME YOUR SPONSOR PURELY BY CHANCE, NEITHER OF US AWARE OF OUR SECOND IDENTITIES UNTIL LATER.

DESPITE OUR... NATURAL ANTAGONISM, IT'S GIVEN ME THE INSIGHT NEEDED TO HELP YOU THROUGH THE STEPS.

FOR ALL THE GOOD IT DID ME.

EL CHUPACABRA, I RELAPSED *SIX* TIMES BEFORE I FINALLY GOT CLEAN. I COULD SLIP AGAIN TOMORROW.

BUT THE STEPS ARE THERE BECAUSE THEY WORK.

AND THIS TIME, IT'S EL CHUPACABRA WHO NEEDS TO WALK THEM.

WHO--?

PEOPLE LIKE US. ADDICTS, BUT ALSO HEROES, VILLAINS AND EVERYTHING BETWEEN.

NO MATTER WHAT SIDE OF THE LAW WE'RE ON, WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO UNDERSTAND THE PRESSURES THE LIFESTYLE CAN PUT ON RECOVERY.

SO WHAT IF WE'RE AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS FROM NINE TO FIVE?

HERE WE'RE FAMILY.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.

I THINK YOU DO.

MY-- MY NAME IS FRANCISCO AND--

NO.

MY NAME IS **EL CHUPACABRA,** AND I AM AN ALCOHOLIC.

DINOSAURUS'S LAIR.

YOU HEARD ME-- ATTACK!

UH, YEAH-- I DON'T THINK SO.

IN FACT.

FWOMP!

WHY? WHY DO THEY TURN ON THEIR CREATOR?

DUDE, MAYBE YOU ALL MESSED WITH OUR BODIES, BUT OUR MINDS ARE STILL THE SAME.

FWOM!

YOU THINK SOMETHING AS TRIVIAL AS CHANGING OUR SKIN WOULD TURN US AGAINST WHAT WE'VE ALWAYS FOUGHT FOR?

THRUDD!

NO! YOU'RE NO LONGER HUMAN. YOU DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT FOR THEM ANYMORE!

YOU SHOULD HAVE PAID CLOSER ATTENTION WHEN WE FOUGHT IN THE PAST, LIZARD.

HUMANITY ISN'T A PREREQUISITE FOR HEROISM HERE.

YARF!

SARAH!

WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY SARAH!?

FWOM!

KID, WHOA! YOU'RE KILLING HIM.

THRUNCH! THRUNCH!

AYE! I'LL KILL HIM A THOUSAND--

HONEY, STOP.

I-- I'M OKAY... I THINK.

I'M STILL SARAH.

THAT YOU ARE, GIRL.

HURRRH-- HA-HA-- =KAFF!=

EVEN IF KING-- NNNGGH-- KING LIZARD DIES...MY WORLD WILL STILL BE BORN.

MY CHILDREN WILL-- =KAFF=-- WILL STILL REIGN!

MY LEGACY-- MY LEGASssss...

HE DEAD?

I'LL CHECK LATER. WHAT WAS HE TALKING ABOUT-- HIS *WORLD*?

COME ON, MAN. YOU WERE SENT HERE TO SURVEY THIS PLACE. WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

THE-- THE VENTS.

THE THERMAL VENTS. DINOSAURUS POWERED HIS HEADQUARTERS WITH GEOTHERMAL ENERGY. HE PLACED THEM RIGHT ABOVE MASSIVE GEOTHERMAL VENTS.

CECIL, YOU GETTING THIS?

YES. WE'VE SECURED THREE OF HIS FACILITIES AND THEY ALL APPEAR TO BE ABOVE ACTIVE VENTS.

YOUR LOCATION, ONE IN WYOMING, AND ANOTHER IN NEW ZEALAND.

DINOSAURUS KEPT SMALL NUCLEAR DEVICES WITHIN EACH VENT AS A SORT OF DOOMSDAY DEVICE.

KING LIZARD WANTED TO SET THOSE BOMBS OFF AND BLOW OPEN THE VENTS, RELEASING THE HEAT INTO THE ATMOSPHERE.

WARMING THE PLANET FOR HIS COLD-BLOODED KIN.

I'VE GOT IT.

KING LIZARD MAY HAVE BEEN A BRILLIANT MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST, BUT HIS UNDERSTANDING OF BOTH GEOLOGY AND PHYSICS SUCKS.

GEOTHERMAL VENTS AREN'T BATHTUB FAUCETS. IF THOSE BOMBS GO OFF, THEY WON'T JUST SEND MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF HEAT INTO THE ATMOSPHERE, THEY'LL SET OFF THE SUPER VOLCANOS THEY'RE BURIED IN.

EST

A YELLOWSTONE ERUPTION ALONE WOULD MAKE THE FLOOD DINOSAURUS SET OFF LOOK LIKE A SPRING SHOWER. ONE HUNDRED MILLION DEAD-- EASILY.

ALSO, THE DEVICES ARE HARDENED AGAINST REMOTE DEACTIVATION, AND WE'VE GOT LESS THAN AN HOUR TO STOP THEM.

COME ON, MAN. GIVE ME SOMETHING TO WORK WITH.

THE BOMBS ARE DEEP WITHIN THE VENTS. I DOUBT ANYONE THIS SIDE OF INVINCIBLE COULD TAKE THE HEAT AND PRESSURE PRESENT THERE.

BUT IF WE CAN REACH THEM, THEY SHOULD BE EASY TO DEFUSE. NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE DELICATE, PRECISION DEVICES. MERELY DAMAGING THEM SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO HALT THE NUCLEAR DETONATION.

YOU HEAR THAT? FIND 'EM AND SMASH 'EM.

WHAT ABOUT THE ONE UNDER US?

I WAS KIDDING, YOU KNOW.

IMMORTAL, YOU TAKE NEW ZEALAND. INVINCIBLE TO YELLOWSTONE.

I'LL FEED YOU THE COORDINATES ON YOUR EARPIECES.

WELL, I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE HOW MY POWERS STOOD UP TO AN ATOMIC BOMB GOING OFF IN MY FACE.

23:12

I'LL STICK WITH YOU AS LONG AS I CAN, BUT I PROJECT SYSTEMS FAILURE OF MY REMOTE OPERATIONS AT A FEW HUNDRED FEET BEFORE THE BOMB.

HOW MUCH TIME LEFT, REX?

AT THIS PACE WE MIGHT NOT EVEN *REACH* THE BOMB BEFORE IT GOES OFF.

I'M OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS.

INVINCIBLE, YOU READ ME?

KKZZZKK-KAKK-- YEAH, BUT THIS IS TOUGHER THAN ADVERTISED-- BZZZZ-POP-- BREAKING UP ON ME-- KZZZZ--

I CAN'T HEAR YOU, BUT IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, THIS IS TOUGHER THAN I THOUGHT.

DINOSAURUS PUT THIS THING IN SOME KIND OF SUPER-DENSE HOUSING MECHANISM. GONNA TAKE A FEW MINUTES HERE.

19:44

IMMORTAL? WHAT'S YOUR E.T.A. BACK HERE?

ROBOT, YOU'RE HALF A WORLD AWAY. I WON'T MAKE IT.

14:11

GUYS, WE HAVE AN ISSUE. I'M ADVISING IMMEDIATE EVACUATION.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? YOU CAN'T STOP IT?

IMMORTAL AND INVINCIBLE GOT THEIRS, BUT THEY'RE TOO FAR AWAY TO BAIL US OUT. WE'RE STILL A COUPLE HUNDRED FEET OR SO FROM THE BOMB.

COULD YOU GUYS DO ME A FAVOR AND REMEMBER TO DIG ME OUT AFTER ALL THIS?

I DON'T RELISH THE IDEA OF LIVING THE NEXT THOUSAND YEARS UNDER A CRUMBLED MOUNTAIN.

WE CAN'T GIVE UP JUST LIKE THAT. THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING.

MAYBE AN ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE COULD DISRUPT THE DETONATOR?

TOO FAR DOWN. THE ROCK WOULD SHIELD IT.

COULD MS. POPPER TELEPORT TO IT?

SIGHT UNSEEN? SHE'D WIND UP FUSED INTO THE ROCK.

DINOSAURUS. EVEN DEAD, HE'S A HUGE PAIN IN THE ASS.

9:16

I'M CALLING IT. EVERYONE THROUGH THE DOOR. WE'LL HAVE TO COORDINATE DISASTER RELIEF AS SOON AS POSS--

KABOOMERANG.

EXCUSE ME?

MOST HONORED KABOOMERANG CAN DO IT.

MAYBE THE WHOLE LIZARD-MAN TRANSFORMATION THING SCRAMBLED YOUR BRAINS, MATE...

BUT EVEN ON MY BEST DAY I CAN'T THROW A BOOMERANG THROUGH A MOUNTAIN.

I STUDY KABOOMERANG. *THROWING* NOT YOUR POWER.

YOUR POWER *HERE.*

4:53

THERE'S OUR BURIED TREASURE, AND WITH FOUR WHOLE MINUTES TO SPARE.

REX?

SPPZZZKK-KK!

MEEP-MEEP-MEEP--

YEAH. NOT LIKE I COULD USE ANY HELP.

AH, HELL. HERE'S TO FUTILITY.

BLANG! BLANG!

THE REST OF YOU CLEAR OUT. GO ON, TIGER.

MAKE BOOMERANGS EXPLODE WITH MIND. MAKE BOMB FAIL WITH MIND.

YOU'RE BARMY.

JUST LOST CONTACT WITH MY ROBOT BODY. THE HEAT WAS TOO MUCH, I GUESS.

REX, TELL TIGER I'M A MARKSMAN, NOT A SPOON BENDER.

WELL, WE'VE ALWAYS SPECULATED THERE WAS SOME SORT OF TELEKINETIC ASPECT TO YOUR ABILITIES.

FINE. THAT'S A BLEEDING THEORY, ISN'T IT?

MAYBE I DO MAKE MY BOOMERANGS BLOW ON CUE--

BUT YOU WANT ME TO SABOTAGE A BOMB BURIED HUNDREDS OF FEET BELOW-- A BOMB I CAN'T EVEN SEE?

ONE DOES NOT NEED TO SEE--

TO DO.

2:10

GOOD LUCK. THE DOOR'S STAYING OPEN IF YOU NEED TO BAIL.

THIS IS-- THIS IS CRAZY.

ALL BEST THINGS ARE CRAZY.

1:26

LET SIGHT GO. LET THINKING GO.

NO REACH FOR BOMB. LET BOMB COME TO KABOOMERANG.

I-- I FEEL SOMETHING. LIKE A WEB OF MACHINES ALL AROUND ME.

I CAN'T TELL IF IT'S THE BOMB OR-- IT'S ALL A MESS OF CIRCUITS AND WIRES AND HUMMING NOISES--

I CAN'T--

I CAN'T ISOLATE THE BOMB.

0:37

THEN STOP ALL MACHINE.

"ALL?"

ZZZADKK!

"ALL!"

00:28

LLAAKK-KRAGGSH!

WHOA!

SPZZAKK!

MEEP-MEEP-MEEEEEEE...

RAN OUT OF STEAM, HUH?

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.

GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY ARTIFICIAL SATELLITE ONE.

YO, YOU GOT FAT.

I DON'T GET HOW THIS ORGANIZATION CAN MANAGE TO CHANGE EVERYONE BACK TO HUMAN IN A MATTER OF HOURS--

BUT WHIPPING UP A NEW UNIFORM IS FREAKING MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE.

PRIORITIES, MAN.

I LIKED YOU BETTER WHEN YOU WERE A CROCODILE.

TELL ME, WOULD YOU LOVE ME IF I WERE STUCK LIKE THIS?

THIS IS ONE OF THOSE "NO RIGHT ANSWER" KIND OF QUESTIONS, LIKE THAT TIME YOU GOT YOUR HAIR DYED.

BUT IF YOU LOVED ME WHILE I WAS A SMOLDERING PILE OF ASH, I THINK I COULD MANAGE WITH A TURTLE WIFE.

YOU WON'T HAVE TO. INTO THE CHAMBER, KNOCKOUT.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU ALL, BUT THIS WHOLE ***MAMMAL-TO-REPTILE-TO-MAMMAL*** THING HAS ME FAMISHED.

LUCKILY THE TRANSFORMATION WAS STILL INCOMPLETE. WITH ACCESS TO KING LIZARD'S WORK, IT WAS FAIRLY EASY TO WALK BACK THE PROCESS.

EVERYONE SHOULD BE BACK TO NORMAL IN NO TI--

THWAP!

OF COURSE, THERE COULD BE SOME LINGERING SIDE EFFECTS.

CHOMP

GOOD TO SEE YOU, FRANCISCO. I TRUST YOU'RE FEELING BETTER.

ONE DAY AT A TIME, CECIL.

IS THAT A NEW ADDITION TO YOUR UNIFORM?

ADDITION? NO.

IT IS MY UNIFORM.

ALEXANDRIA, VA.

HEY, IS THAT YOUR OLD COSTUME?

UNIFORM. WE CALL THEM UNIFORMS.

YEAH. MY REGULAR ONE WAS SHOT.

A LITTLE SNUG IN THE BEHIND, BUT I LIKE IT. I DEMAND YOU WEAR IT TO THE BOWLING ALLEY.

BOWLING NIGHT AGAIN?

IT'S TUESDAY, BRIT. YOU KNOW THAT.

IT'LL BE JUST A SEC WHILE I FINISH MY MAKEUP.

HOW WAS YOUR DAY? ANYTHING INTERESTING HAPPEN?

INTERESTING?

AH, YOU KNOW...

NOT REALLY.



ROBERT KIRKMAN is the creator of the Eisner Award-winning comic series, THE WALKING DEAD, which was developed into an AMC television series and has become a worldwide phenomenon. He is also the co-creator of INVINCIBLE with Cory Walker, and Executive Producer of the Amazon Prime Video animated series of the same name. He's also the co-creator and writer of many comic series, including FIRE POWER, OBLIVION SONG, DIE!DIE!DIE!, OUTCAST, and SUPER DINOSAUR.

CORY WALKER is the co-creator and artist of INVINCIBLE and SCIENCE DOG with writer Robert Kirkman. He's currently the Lead Character Designer of INVINCIBLE, the smash-hit Amazon Prime Video animated series.

RYAN OTTLEY is the artist of The Best Superhero Series of All-Time, INVINCIBLE, which was recently adapted into the hit animated series on Amazon Prime Video. He's currently drawing *Hulk* for Marvel.

BENITO CERENO is a writer, podcaster, and co-creator of the comics *Tales from the Bully Pulpit* and *Hector Plasm*, and written stories for the Invincible Universe and *The Tick*.

NATE BELLEGARDE is the co-creator and artist of the Eisner-nominated *Nowhere Men* from Image Comics and *Hector Plasm*. He's also drawn STEALTH for Skybound/Image and is currently a character designer on Amazon Prime Video's hit *Invincible* animated series.

RANSOM GETTY is a comic book artist whose work has been published by Image, DC, and Marvel.

PHIL HESTER is comic book writer and artist whose work includes *Green Arrow: Quiver* (with Kevin Smith), *Firebreather* (with Andy Kuhn), *The Coffin* and *Deep Sleeper* (with Mike Huddleston), and *Gotham City: Year One* (with Tom King).

TODD NAUCK is a comic book artist and writer whose work includes *New Men* (Extreme Studios/Image), *Young Justice* (DC Comics), *Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man* (Marvel), and his creator-owned series *Wildguard* (Image).

RUS WOOTON is an Eisner-nominated comic book letterer best known for his work on books like THE WALKING DEAD, FIRE POWER, KROMA, ULTRAMEGA, *Monstress*, *Deadly Class*, *Decorum*, *Fantastic Four*, *X-Men*, and many more. An artist, designer, writer, and filmmaker, Rus has been lettering full-time since 2003, drawing for as long as he can remember, and reading comics since before he could read.

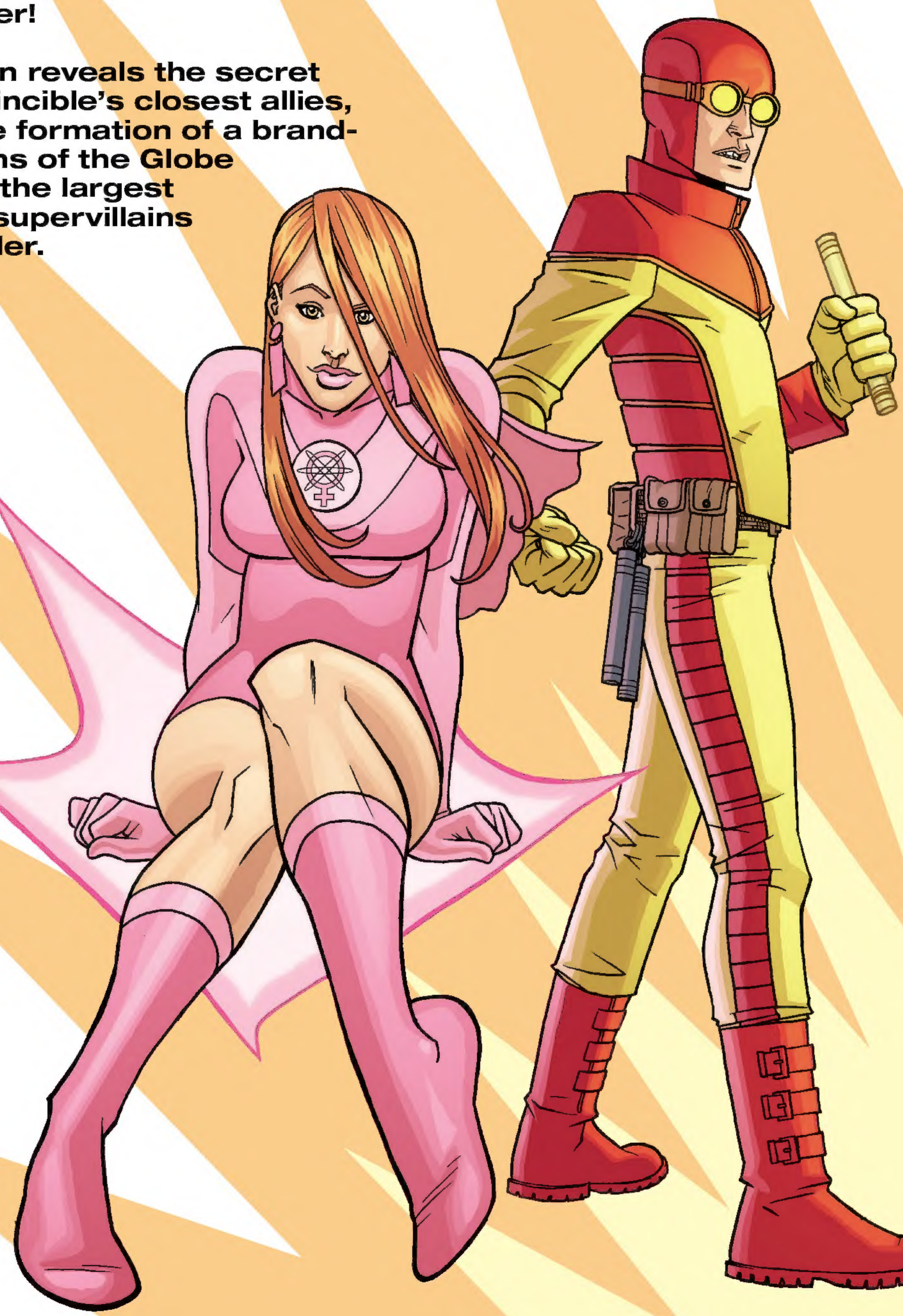


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**Atom Eve! Rex Splode!
Brit! Best Tiger!**

This collection reveals the secret history of Invincible's closest allies, as well as the formation of a brand-new Guardians of the Globe team to fight the largest gathering of supervillains ever: The Order.



COLLECTS INVINCIBLE PRESENTS: ATOM EVE #1-2, INVINCIBLE PRESENTS: ATOM EVE & REX SPLODE #1-3, GUARDING THE GLOBE #1-6, GUARDING THE GLOBE (VOL. 2) #1-6, AND INVINCIBLE UNIVERSE #1-12.

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